

A LOVELY BEDSIDE PIECE TO WAKE YOU INTO A BEAUTIFUL MORNING



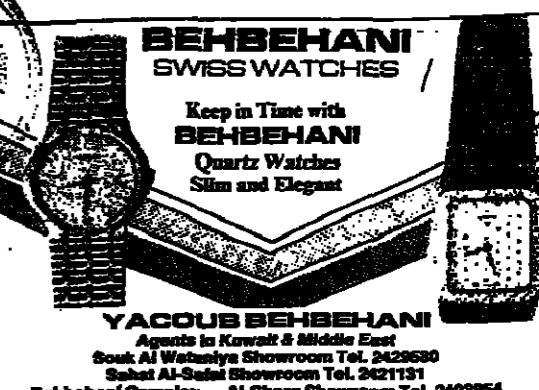
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ARAB TIMES



3-point compromise plan proposed to Iraq, Iran

UN chief seeks US help to revive talks

GENEVA, Aug 30, (Agencies): UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, unable to get Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers together for the fourth day running, sought US help today in putting life into stalled Gulf peace talks.

Foreign ministers met directly, with Perez de Cuellar in the mediator's chair, only briefly on the first two days and negotiations have remained deadlocked since.

There were only separate discussions in late afternoon and early evening today, the sixth day of talks, between UN legal experts with lower-level Iraqi and then Iranian officials. They discussed a three-point compromise plan.

Diplomats said the three-point plan was designed to give each side an immediate benefit while enabling the talks to move to the other sections of 598.

They said the compromise plan specified the withdrawal of forces and a UN survey of what was necessary to clear rusting ships and mines from the disputed Shatt Al Arab which lies between the two countries at the head of the Gulf.

A third point related to

freedom of navigation in the Gulf, seeking to answer Iraqi complaints that since Iran was still claiming the right to inspect Iraqi ships it was not extending the ceasefire to the sea.

UN spokesman Francois Giuliani told reporters that there would be no "formal meeting" today.

"Maybe," Giuliani said about any such session tomorrow. "The agenda for tomorrow is open."

Perez de Cuellar, he said, was flying to Portugal on Thursday for a one-day official visit.

Giuliani said the stalled negotiations were reviewed with ambassadors of all five permanent Security Council members—Britain, China, France, Soviet Union and the United States.

Demands

Perez de Cuellar asked Washington in particular, however, to apply "pressure" on Baghdad to ease its position on the strategic Shatt Al Arab waterway, involved Western diplomats said.

"We are still trying to clear the first part of point one," Perez de Cuellar told reporters. "This (war) is a very difficult problem. You cannot expect to solve it in a

matter of three, four or five days."

The talks are based on UN Security Council Resolution 598, whose first point demands a ceasefire and then a withdrawal of forces.

A UN ceasefire took effect on Aug 20 and is largely being respected after eight years of bitter conflict, but Iraq is pressing for an agreement by Iran not to stop its ships in the Gulf.

It also demands that the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf, should be cleared of trapped ships and debris so it can benefit from the ceasefire at sea. Iran, with its long Gulf coast, is already shipping freely.

Reasserted

Iran views Iraqi insistence on clearing the Shatt as a bid to assert full sovereignty over it, which it firmly rejects.

The Shatt Al Arab, the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, has become one of several problems in the talks and UN spokesman Francois Giuliani said technical experts were drafting proposals aimed at bridging the gap.

President Saddam Hussein tore up the 1975 Algiers Treaty giving Iran sovereignty over the

eastern half of the waterway before the war started.

Three Iraqi statements in the past two days have reasserted that it belongs wholly to Iraq, but Tehran says Iraq is bound by all agreements it signed.

"The Iraqi demand (for sovereignty) is tantamount to changing the law and would infringe international law by allowing a gain of territory from military operations," a senior Iranian delegate said.

The dispute is preventing the two sides from moving on to the question of withdrawal of troops, an exchange of prisoners-of-war and other issues.

Diplomats said both sides were aware of the grave consequences if the talks failed—the possibility of the resumption of a savage war that has already caused an estimated million casualties and devastated the two economies.

The secretary-general, asked about resuming formal talks, said: "If they want it, if there is a reason to meet them at the same time, I will meet them."

He described the talks as "a triangle. They talk to me and I talk to the other side."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said at a press conference yesterday that it would be impossible to advance to other points until Iran agreed that the ceasefire extended over all Gulf waters.

It is a very difficult problem and it cannot be expected that this will be resolved in a few days," Perez de Cuellar said.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati ruled out granting any concessions that Iraq had failed to win in their eight-year-old war.

Unable

"That is their dream, but everybody knows they were unable to reach victory in the war they imposed on us eight years ago," he told the Associated Press in an interview.

"We don't think there is a deadlock, we do hope that the secretary-general can find a solution to these difficulties," Velayati said. He was prepared to stay on in Geneva "as long as the secretary-general is here and asks us to remain here," he added.

Iran claims Iraqi forces violated their week-old truce by killing an Iranian soldier and capturing hundreds of others as UN military observers looked on, according to documents released at the UN yesterday.



HH the Amir receiving Ramadan.

Amir gets Saddam's message

A SENIOR Iraqi envoy yesterday delivered a message from President Saddam Hussein to HH the Amir.

The message apparently dealt with Iraq's stand at the Geneva talks on a peace settlement to end the Gulf war.

The envoy, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, a member of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, made a short visit to Kuwait yesterday and flew to Saudi Arabia to meet King Fahd.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the message to the Amir "deals with developments of the Iran-Iraq war and Iraq's adherence to a permanent and comprehensive peace."

Ramadan also held talks with Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who last week visited China as the head of a delegation representing a seven-man Arab committee entrusted with following up developments in the Gulf war.

The Arab League delegation to China included Iraq's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saadoun Hamadi, who arrived in Paris yesterday for talks with senior French officials.

Before leaving Baghdad, Hamadi said he would inform French officials of Iraq's attitude and "endeavour to establish durable and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran according to the Security Council Resolution 598."

The council is the supreme authority on interpretation of Islamic judicial matters. The death sentence in Saudi Arabia means beheading by sword.

The lengthy statement referred to "saboteurs and those who spread corruption on earth" and specifically mentioned hijacking as well as acts of sabotage against oil installations.

The ulema statement said its decision was based "on a number of acts of sabotage which have cost the lives of many innocent people, caused damage to much property and finances and public institutions in many Islamic and other countries, carried out by the poor of faith or those who lack it altogether."

"It has been noted that several such crimes have been committed in near and distant countries and since Saudi Arabia like others is subject to such acts of sabotage, the council of top ulema saw it was necessary to endorse a deterrent punishment for those who commit such acts ... with the aim of spreading corruption and instability."

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): On two occasions before Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq died in a mysterious plane crash, senior Soviet diplomats issued private warnings that action might be taken against Pakistan if it continued to support the Afghan resistance, a US official has said.

Crash

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov delivered "what was interpreted as a threat" during a meeting with US Ambassador Jack Matlock several days before the crash of the C-130 plane that claimed the life of Zia and 29 others on Aug 17, the US official said.

A similar warning was issued to Pakistan's ambassador to Moscow but the US official, insisting on anonymity, was uncertain of the identity of the Soviet

The floods follow heavy monsoon rains in Bangladesh and neighbouring India this month. The Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers flowing from India through Bangladesh to the Bay of Bengal have burst their banks.

At least 3 million people have

(Continued on Page 2)

diplomat who spoke to the envoy.

Days before the crash, the Kremlin issued a statement saying that Pakistan's backing for the rebels could "not be further tolerated."

Also killed in the crash was the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Arnold Raphel, and a number of senior Pakistani military officers. The plane went down about 330 miles (530 kilometres) south of Islamabad.

Targeted

The Soviets have denied responsibility for the crash and also rejected allegations by Zia last November that Moscow was behind a wave of terrorist bombings that have occurred in Pakistan for more than a year.

A US State Department report last week attributed the incidents to the Afghan Ministry of State Security which, it said, maintains

close ties with the Soviet KGB.

The report said Afghan agents carried out 127 attacks last year, about two thirds of all state-sponsored terrorist incidents worldwide.

US officials have acknowledged that if the Soviets had targeted Zia for assassination, they almost certainly would have kept the operation secret and not alluded to that possibility in their contacts with US and Pakistani officials.

For this reason, the officials said, they are drawing no conclusions about who or what was responsible for the crash.

They also noted that Zia had acquired many enemies during his 11-year rule, which was marked by repeated crackdowns on domestic political opponents, including public floggings and imprisonment under harsh conditions.

US, Iran exchanged secret messages

NEW YORK, Aug 30, (AP): The United States and Iran exchanged more than 15 secret messages last spring regarding the re-establishment of relations and other subjects, according to a report being published this week.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

Mohammad Javad Larijani, interviewed by the New Yorker magazine in mid-June, said the messages were exchanged over the previous two months. His remarks appear in the magazine's Sept. 5 issue.

"It is our understanding that

the United States wants to keep them confidential, and we honour that," Larijani said of the messages between the two countries. However, he added, "the messages deal with potential for relations and with the whole

region."

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پاکستان کے گران و وزراء
ستھی ہو جائیں گے!
ایران عراق ناکرات میں
تھل
انقلاب اقتدار پر اس کے
جگ جنگ
انتخابات علیہ یا فوج
کرائے دوں
جگ ایک ختم ہوئی،
شیخ
خیر مل میں پر کارماں
غیری محارمیں قیام اس
پرانا
ادیمات اور کھٹکی
تقریبات

WEATHER

HUMID weather with light to moderate south-easterly to easterly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 2.00 am, 2.00 pm
Low water: 8.30 am, 9.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.34 am
Sunset: 6.11 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 40°C 104°F
Ahmadi: 39°C 102°F
Faijaka: 46°C 97°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 28°C 82°F
Ahmadi: 31°C 88°F
Faijaka: 31°C 88°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 90 percent
Ahmadi: 95 percent
Faijaka: 95 percent
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 90 percent
Ahmadi: 95 percent
Faijaka: 95 percent

Israel raps UN chief for speaking of Palestine

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 30, (Reuters): Israel rebuked UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today for referring to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as "Palestine."

"This terminology is unacceptable to us," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said in an official statement. Israel would make clear its objection through diplomatic channels to the UN chief, he said.

"The future of these territories should be determined in negotiations with the relevant sides, as agreed (between Egypt, Israel and the United States in 1978) at Camp David," he said.

According to Israeli press reports, Perez de Cuellar spoke of "the situation in Palestine" at a Geneva news conference yesterday in reference to an eight-month-old Arab uprising against Israeli rule in the occupation zone.

The independent newsletter, which reports on Arab opinion around the Middle East, quoted an official of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in West Beirut for its report.

"No final decision has yet been taken on whether the projected team will be a provisional government or a government-in-exile, but there are indications that the PLO will opt for the provisional formula," the newsletter said.

The spokesman said the curfews imposed last Thursday on over 100,000 residents of Nablus, the West Bank's largest Arab city, and a nearby Palestinian

Arabs stage strike in occupied areas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 30, (AP): Israeli troops shot at least one Palestinian protester today as Arabs throughout the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip started a 48-hour general strike in sympathy with deported Palestinian activists.

He said restrictions on Palestinians in two other West Bank camps and Tulkarm town were removed, but the curfew was maintained in the West Bank village of Bani Na'im, near Hebron.

Last week, and at other times during an eight-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Army imposed curfews on strike days to prevent violence.

"It's not a rule that we do this," the Army spokesman said. "If it were, we would be imposing curfews (on large areas) every other day."

Drafted

Palestinian legal officials have drafted a plan for a 12-member government to be headed by Yasir Arafat, the Arab World weekly said in Beirut.

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The spokesman said the curfews imposed last Thursday on over 100,000 residents of Nablus, the West Bank's largest Arab city, and a nearby Palestinian

town were removed, but the curfew was maintained in the West Bank village of Bani Na'im, near Hebron.

The situation is already alarming but we fear the worst is still to come," a relief ministry official said.

"We are facing acute shortages of food, drinking water and other emergency supplies," said another official at Rajbari, 130 km (80 miles) north of Dhaka.

Hundreds of families fled their homes in Dhaka today as floods engulfed low-lying areas of the capital of six million people.

Virtually all rail and road links between Dhaka and the rest of the country have been cut and up to five feet (1.5 m) of water was

reported in at least 20 major towns, the officials said.

The government admits only 182 deaths.

The government statement said the floods washed away at least 500,000 houses, 1,200 kilometres (745 miles) of roads and 510 bridges. Crops on at least 369,000 hectares (91,430 acres) of land had been totally destroyed, it said.

INTERNATIONAL

Rumours rife in Rangoon

Burmese Army may intervene

BANGKOK, Aug 30. (Agencies): As Burma's people power uprisings searches for direction, chances increase that the 170,000-man Army will try to reassert itself as the country's most powerful political force, Rangoon-based diplomats said today.

Rumours have been rife in the Burmese capital that the Army might stage a coup or intervene politically in some other way.

"We have from pretty good sources that the military is currently considering its options and all of these involve military intervention in one form or another," a Western diplomat said.

Acting and retired officers loyal to former General Ne Win have run Burma since the coup that brought him to power in

1962. Diplomats said that if the Army stepped in it would probably be the breakdown in law and order accompanying the stand-off between the retreating Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) and the mass opposition.

They said one possibility was an Army takeover, in consultation with the BSPP leadership, to allow the party to go ahead with its proposed timetable for political reform, including an emergency congress on Sept 12 and a referendum on opening up the country to multi-party rule.

Another was a total Army takeover and scrapping the BSPP.

Burma has been effectively leaderless for a month since first Ne Win and then his immediate successor, Sein Lwin, stepped down in face of a mounting

repression. Central BSPP administration has collapsed in parts of the country with committees of civilians, Buddhist monks and students trying to maintain security and order.

Diplomats said they would not rule out at least part of the Army siding with the people if senior officers split over whether to support the people.

Paralysed

Low-ranking soldiers, who for 40 years have been mostly engaged fighting more than a dozen ethnic minority rebellions along Burma's borders, fraternised with protesters in Rangoon and elsewhere at the height of the uprising.

Rangoon is almost paralysed by strikes and food and fuel are in short supply as demonstrations

continued today.

The military, who had opened fire on protesters in an attempt to quell the unrest, has retreated to defend key government departments and leaders' homes and avoided challenging the opposition.

Appealed

Old soldiers dominate the hierarchy of the BSPP that is clinging to power. Diplomats believe Ne Win retains power behind the new party chief, Maung Maung, the only civilian in the highest party ranks, and that he has continued support from the Army.

The government appealed to Buddhist monks and the public today to help end a railway strike that has paralyzed transportation for five days throughout Burma.

Pre-marital sex an old American affair

NEW YORK, Aug 30. (UPI): Pre-Victorian Americans believed sexual abstinence was harmful to their health and often engaged in pre-marital sex during courtship, American Heritage magazine reports in its issue released today.

The Victorian veneer of a straitlaced, prudish society was laid on only in the mid-1800s when men were told sex was a risky "animal lust" and women were encouraged to forego "carnal passion" as beneath their proper role as mothers and homemakers, historian Jack Larkin wrote in an article.

Early 19th century Americans were more licentious than we ordinarily imagine them to be," he said. "For many couples sexual relations were part of a serious courtship."

Records into the late 1700s show premarital sex was widely accepted and "pregnancy was frequently the prelude to marriage," Larkin said. "Nearly one-third of rural New England's brides were already with child."

Pregnancies

"Pregnancies usually simply accelerated a marriage that would have taken place in any case," he said. "Most rural communities simply accepted the 'early' pregnancies that marked so many marriages." Unwed mothers customarily were interrogated during labour about the father—not out of concern over immorality, but to force the father to support a child "born a bastard and chargeable to the town," he wrote, quoting a document of the era.

"Into the 1820s, almost all Americans would have subscribed to the commonplace notion that sex, within proper social confines, was enjoyable and healthy, and that prolonged sexual abstinence could be injurious to health," Larkin said. "They also would have assumed that women had powerful sexual drives."

"We're extremely upset that it happened," said Lieut. Frank Thorp, a spokesman for the carrier. "The first thing you heard was the collision alarm. After the collision alarm stopped, the word came over the loud



Bangladeshi President Hussein Muhammad Ershad consoles a young girl when he visited flood-ravaged Gaibandha town. (Reuter wirephoto)

US warship collides with coal freighter

NORFOLK, Virginia, Aug 30. (UPI): The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower, with 1,000 sailors lining the flight deck looking for their first glimpse of land in days, ran into a Spanish coal freighter off the Virginia coast yesterday.

Damage was minimal and no injuries were reported, the Navy said. One official called it a maritime "fender bender".

The Eisenhower, returning from a six-month deployment in the Mediterranean with about 5,500 crewmembers, hit the Urduz, while the freighter was anchored west of the Hampton Roads bridge-tunnel in the Elizabeth River channel.

"That may very well be a factor, as it turns out," Thorp said. The weather was poor at the time, with rain, 17 to 28 MPH winds, 4-to-6 foot waves and visibility of less than two miles, but the Navy would not say for certain if the weather was a factor.

speaker system to man all repair stations."

He said the order was precautionary and turned out to be unnecessary. Crew members secured items jarred loose and assessed what damage there was.

"There was no fire on the

Factor

Eisenhower, no flooding... and no one was hurt on the ship," Thorp said.

The Navy would not confirm crew accounts that the collision occurred while the carrier was navigating between a submarine and the freighter.

"Radical Palestinian leaders have been discussing calls for a declaration of independence in the occupied territories, scene of a nine-month old uprising against Israeli rule, and the formation of a government-in-exile since Jordan's King Hussein dropped claims to the West Bank last month."

But radical factions including those led by Jibril and Mousa are opposed to such measures, which they fear would lead to a peace agreement with Israel and abandonment of Palestinian claims to all of what is now Israel.

Jibril, secretary-general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Nayed Hawatmeh, secretary-general of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Sulaiman Najaab, head of the Palestine Communist Party, also arrived today.

How to make a million

LOS ANGELES, Aug 30. (Reuters): A so-called "telephone bandit" was alleged yesterday to have robbed call boxes of nearly \$1 million in coins.

James Clark, 48, a fugitive since an arrest warrant was issued at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in November 1985, was arrested by FBI agents in Los Angeles during the weekend. A federal magistrate has ordered that he be held without bail.

Clark is charged with receiving stolen property, a device which allowed him to empty telephone boxes of nearly one million dollars, US assistant prosecutor Alice Hall said.

A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Fred Reagan, said telephone coin boxes cannot hold more than \$200. "Clark may not be Jack the Ripper, but he is alleged to be a one-of-a-kind thief," Reagan said.

Clarke was twice featured on "America's Most Wanted", a television programme dealing with fugitives.

Blast on Khyber Mail kills three

ISLAMABAD, Aug 30. (Reuters): A bomb blast in the luggage van of the Khyber Mail train killed three Pakistanis and injured 13 near Islamabad today, a local official said.

More than 250 people have been killed in the last 18 months in bomb attacks blamed by Pakistani officials on secret agents of the Soviet-backed Afghan government. Kabul has denied responsibility.

The bomb exploded after the train left Attock, half-way between Islamabad and the north-western city of Peshawar.

Army called in to help marooned ...

(Continued from Page 1) been marooned in the Indian state of Bihar along the banks of the Ganges. The United News of India said, Crops worth Rs 160 million (\$12.5 million) were destroyed by the waters, the news agency said. Eight people died in Bihar.

The Army was deployed to rescue stranded people in the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam state, said.

At least 50 people have died in floods sweeping the northeastern Indian state of Assam which borders Bangladesh, the Press Trust of India said.

Ten days of almost constant rain have swamped airfields, preventing relief supplies from being dropped to the 600,000 people affected by the floods.

Road and rail links have also been cut, the news agency said.

Libya may mediate between PLO factions

TRIPOLI, Aug 30. (Reuters): Libya may attempt to mediate between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian opponents gathered in Tripoli. Arab diplomats said today.

Efforts to heal rifts between the PLO chairman and radical Palestinian factions opposed to his leadership may take place during festivities to mark the 19th anniversary of the Libyan revolution, they said.

Arafat arrived today and told the Libyan news agency JANA his visit "will help to achieve Palestinian national unity on a firm basis and strengthen the popular revolution" in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Navy would not confirm crew accounts that the collision occurred while the carrier was navigating between a submarine and the freighter.

"That may very well be a factor, as it turns out," Thorp said. The weather was poor at the time, with rain, 17 to 28 MPH winds, 4-to-6 foot waves and visibility of less than two miles, but the Navy would not say for certain if the weather was a factor.

Polish government ready to hold talks with Walesa

WARSAW, Aug 30. (Reuters): The Polish government said today it was ready to include Solidarity leader Lech Walesa in talks on Poland's future as soon as he left a strike-bound Gdansk shipyard and the strike was called off.

"The ending of the strike by Lech Walesa and the (Lenin) shipyard would automatically mean convening round-table talks," government spokesman Jerzy Urban said.

Proposal

Walesa's presence at the talks would indicate that he represented a mass movement, Urban added. The authorities have dismissed him as a non-person since they outlawed the Solidarity free trade union in 1982.

Round-table talks with the opposition were proposed last Friday by Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak. The

proposal was approved at the weekend by the Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee.

"One may expect that Lech Walesa will be among those sitting down to the round-table," Urban said in reply to a question at his weekly news conference.

Kiszczak said the talks would be without pre-conditions. Participants could include all sides except for those who "rejected the constitutional order of Poland," he said.

Urban's announcement came at the start of the third week of Poland's worst wave of labour unrest since communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski imposed martial law in 1981 in a bid to crush Solidarity.

"It is a matter of reaching an agreement amid the conditions of a subsidizing in a manner that would offend no one," Urban

Jackson

to quit live shows

TOKYO, Aug 30. (Reuters): Rock superstar Michael Jackson plans to quit live stage performances after a current mammoth concert tour, his manager Frank Dileo said today.

"Michael Jackson does not want to do concerts again, of any size," Dileo said in a telephone interview.

He said the singer had been exhausted by the world tour, which began in Japan last September and will end back in Tokyo in December, and wanted to devote his time to making films.

"This will be our last tour. We wanted to make it the best and the biggest, and we did it," said Dileo.

The latest of Jackson's series of concerts, which has attracted audiences totalling 4.5 million, was in London on Aug 27.

He is scheduled to perform nine concerts in Tokyo between Dec 9 and 26.

The superstar is the record industry's prime money-maker.

His album "Thriller" grossed about \$220 million, several times the amount taken by bestsellers from other stars such as Bruce Springsteen, Prince and Madonna.

Jackson started out as a child star in a group with other members of his family, who were signed to the Motown recording label.

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The Soviet initiative, about which Novik gave few details, will centre on a long-proposed international Middle East peace conference, Novik said. US and Soviet differences on the powers of such a conference have recently narrowed, he said.

Novik also said Moscow believed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) might be on the verge of major policy changes towards Israel that would signal an end to its call for the destruction of the Jewish state.

The Israeli official told the Jerusalem Post newspaper Moscow believed conditions were

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Rev. John Brown (left) and British Ambassador Alan John Ramsay (center) met Lebanon's Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled in West Beirut yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Intelligence chief sacked for attack on Seoul editor

SEOUL, Aug 30. (Reuter): A South Korea dismissed its Army intelligence chief and charged two generals in connection with an attack on a journalist who criticised the military, the Defence Ministry said today.

A four-man military squad led by a major was arrested last week for a knife attack on Oh Hong-Kyun, city editor of the Joongang Economic Daily, who wrote an article criticising the Army as the source of many national problems.

A ministry spokesman said Major-General Lee Jin-Back, head of Army intelligence, had been sacked for failing to control his men.

Brigadier-General Lee Kyu-Hong had been charged with ordering the assault and Brigadier-General Kwon Ki-Dae with trying to cover it up, he said.

Oh was stabbed in the leg in the Aug 6 attack.

A ministry statement apologised for the "imprudent acts by a small number of soldiers."

"We believe this incident... greatly disappointed the people. The military will devote itself heart and soul to the duty of safeguarding the people and their properties," the statement said.

The attack has become a major political issue in the run-up to next month's Seoul Olympic Games. Some opposition parties have delayed signing a political truce with the government until the case is settled.

Newspapers said during the weekend that Defence Minister Oh Ja-Bok would submit his resignation after the investigation into the case was over.

Meanwhile, opposition leaders called today for the resignation of a conservative cabinet minister, accusing him of suggesting that the government should crack down on political dissent.

Takeshita returns from China tour

TOKYO, Aug 30. (AP): Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita returned home today from a six-day visit to China highlighted by the signing of an investment protection agreement and the announcement of new Japanese loans for Chinese development projects.

The investment accord, which guarantees Japanese investors the same treatment and rights as those enjoyed by Chinese, is aimed at increasing the number of Japanese participating in joint ventures and wholly owned businesses in China.

During his first to China since taking office last November, Takeshita also announced Japan will provide \$30 billion yen (\$6.4 billion) in government credit and soft loans for some 40 infrastructure projects in the 1990-95 period.

The Japanese Prime Minister met China's top leaders, including Deng Xiaoping, Premier Li Deng and Communist Party head Zhao Ziyang, for talks that emphasised a "new era" of good relations between the two Asian neighbours.

Takeshita concluded his visit with trips to the famed Buddhist sculptures in the grottoes of Dunhuang in western China.

Efforts renewed for hostages' release

BEIRUT, Aug 30. (AP): A Church of England Bishop John Brown met with Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Sunnis, today in his effort to free foreign hostages, including several Britons, held by extremists.

It was Brown's second visit to Lebanon in a month as representative of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, primate of the Church of England.

The Iranians disappeared while driving in the Christian heartland north of Beirut after the Israeli Army invaded Lebanon in June 1982.

They were presumed to have been kidnapped, but no one has claimed to have seized them. There have been unconfirmed reports they were killed.

Brown was asked if Iran would keep its promise to help free the Western hostages if he received confirmation that the Iranian leaders are dead.

He said: "I simply don't know what effect it will have on the government because I'm not a government man. I'm a churchman."

The missing Iranians are Revolutionary Guards commander Ahmad Motevasselian, charge d'affaires Mohsen Musavi and Kazem Akhavan, a correspondent for Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency. Four Britons are missing in

Morocco, Polisario accept UN plan for Sahara peace

GENEVA, Aug 30. (Reuter): Morocco and Polisario Front guerrillas have accepted a United Nations plan to end 12 years of fighting over the Western Sahara, UN spokesman Francois Giuliani said today.

The UN plan calls for a ceasefire to be followed by a referendum offering the people of the desert territory a choice between independence and integration with Morocco.

Giuliani told reporters Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario Movement had accepted proposals put forward by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Aug 11.

Giuliani was speaking shortly after Perez de Cuellar met separately with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and Bechir Mustafa, a member of the Polisario's executive committee in charge of

external relations.

The United Nations spokesman said implementation of the plan could start before the end of the year.

No date has been set for a ceasefire, and the precise contents of the peace plan have not been made public.

After meeting Perez de Cuellar, Mustafa said the Polisario still wanted a large number of the Moroccan troops stationed in the Western Sahara to be removed before the planned referendum.

Difficult

He said another difficulty would be the presence of a Moroccan civilian administration in the territory while the referendum was held.

Morocco, which annexed the territory when Spain withdrew from the desert colony in 1975, has about 150,000 troops there. Filali told reporters after his

own meeting with Perez de Cuellar that Morocco's military presence was not an issue, since it was confined to a series of six defensive walls which Morocco had built to prevent Polisario infiltrations.

Mustafa said the Polisario had accepted the way that the question of independence or integration into Morocco would be put to voters in the referendum.

Perez de Cuellar told the Moroccan and Polisario representative that he would refer the conditional acceptance of the peace plan to the Security Council, Giuliani told reporters later.

It will then be necessary to discuss and decide on all "political and military aspects," Giuliani said.

Perez de Cuellar, he said, hopes that the ceasefire and other initial elements "can be in place by the end of this year."

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US looks forward to normalising ties with Iran

THE United States stands ready to normalise relations with Iran. US Ambassador to Kuwait, W. Nathaniel Howell, told a local daily yesterday.

"When Iran is ready we will look forward towards further normal relations," he said.

The ambassador said that the US presence in the Gulf was expanded to face threats to shipping and America will maintain its naval forces in the Gulf to confront any threats and protect US ships.

The ambassador also expressed hope that the Iraq-Iran ceasefire resolution and the beginning of negotiations between the two countries will help achieve peace.

Howell was interviewed last Saturday just before the signing

of the F-18 warplanes deal between Kuwait and the US. Information on the deal will be released shortly, Howell said.

Commenting on the Palestinian crisis and the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the ambassador said that while everyone wants to ensure the rights of the Palestinian people, the uprising is not the answer. The uprising should become a political operation, something which US Secretary of State George Shultz is trying to make possible, Howell said.

He added that President Reagan's initiative of 1982 is the best answer for the Middle East crisis.

Howell said that when the PLO is ready to accept UN Resolution 242, then the US may

negotiate with the organisation.

Although King Hussein of Jordan's decided to sever legal and administrative links between the West Bank and Jordan, there will be no solution without Jordanian participation, the ambassador said.

Relations

Howell described his country's relations with Kuwait as good, and said the visit by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to Washington last month was successful.

Howell also said that the United States has historical relations with Kuwait in culture, finance, oil, and foreign policy.

He added that his government has always supported Kuwait's independence and security.

Al Sane holds talks with Soviet military chief

MOSCOW, Aug 30, (KUNA): Kuwait's Army Chief-of-Staff Major General Mezyed Al Sane today met with his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev.

The official Tass News Agency reported that the military chiefs examined bilateral links and the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region.

Further details of the talks were not given.

Al Sane is leading a high-ranking military delegation to discuss ways of upgrading military cooperation between the two countries.

The Kuwaitis are also expected to familiarise themselves with latest Soviet weaponry.

Following the talks, Kuwaiti officials who arrived here yesterday on a six-day visit, are scheduled to visit Red Square where Al Sane will place a wreath at the statue of the unknown soldier and then tour the Kremlin.

Sheikh Nawaf receives three new envoys

MINISTER of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, yesterday received three Kuwaiti designate ambassadors who will assume their new posts abroad.

The three designate ambassadors are Abdulkaziz Al Sharekh, to Japan, Ahmed Al Ibrahim, to Belgium, and Fouzi Al Jassem, to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Later, the three ambassadors visited State Minister for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazidi, who discussed with them enhancing bilateral cooperation between Kuwait and the three countries.

Parents urged to investigate academic calibre of universities

IBRAHIM Mahdi, acting director of the scholarships department at the Ministry of Education, has urged parents who would like their children to study in the US to fully investigate the academic calibre of the universities the children want to attend.

In an interview with a local daily, Mahdi said that his department and the Kuwait Cultural Office in Washington are willing to assist parents in this respect.

Discussing the Ministry's experiment in what he called the "USA educational market," Mahdi said that it has been noted that many US universities were set up on a commercial basis and some are good, and others are clearly not so good.

He also advised students to attend universities which have been recognised by relevant American authorities.

Drop in prices of fresh fish predicted

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE head of the Kuwaiti Fishermen's Union, Abdulkarim Bourashid, has predicted a drop in the prices of local fresh fish now that the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war has been imposed.

The quantity of local fish was reduced during the war because fishing was forbidden in many areas beyond territorial waters. Before the war, the catch on each boat was worth KD 500, but this amount fell to a mere KD40 during the war.

The ban on shrimp fishing will be lifted next month and will continue until April. Bourashid expects a good supply this season.

Stall-holders at the Shuwaikh retail fish market are optimistic about future activity there. One vendor said that business should be back to normal in the next few months — depending on local

supply — and the heavy dependence on imported fish will be reduced. Another vendor was confident that prices will come down and expected good business in early September, when the ban on shrimp fishing is lifted.

Blamed

Meanwhile, Bourashid complained about the high cost of fishing equipment and blamed local agents and importers of marine equipment for the high prices.

He said the union paid around KD 100,000 a month to service and maintain every 1,000 boats. He praised the government's efforts in establishing the union and called for its help in finding a permanent supplier whose services were less expensive.

Additionally, Bourashid disclosed that the capture of fishermen by Iranians during the war is prompting serious consideration of life insurance for fishermen.

Kuwait-US F-18 deal is a setback for French

PARIS, Aug 30, (KUNA): The French newspaper, *Le Monde*, said today that Kuwait's purchase of American-made F-18 warplanes is a major defeat for the French aircraft manufacturer, Dassault-Breguet.

The agreement killed hopes the French manufacturer had of selling advanced "Mirage 2000" all-purpose combat aircraft to Kuwait, the newspaper said.

The newspaper said that Dassault-Breguet had offered to answer the Kuwaiti request for advanced armaments in an upcoming Franco-Kuwaiti meeting if the US Congress had refused to sell the F-18's with

their Maverick missiles.

Since the beginning of the year, France has lost two major arms contracts to the US, one with Kuwait and the other with Switzerland, the newspaper said.

Kuwait already possesses F-1

Mirage interceptors and the Swiss Air Force flies the Mirage III, one of the earliest models of the Mirage series.

The newspaper said the Americans had the upper hand because of prices and the low exchange rate of the dollar. Kuwait could have spent \$160 million more had it decided to buy 40 Mirage 2000s, the paper noted.

2,739 Kuwaiti students admitted

THE Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has announced the admission of 2,739 Kuwaiti students to its various colleges and training centres for the first semester of 1988-89.

There were 1,628 males and 1,111 female students admitted. The College of Basic Education — which mainly graduates teachers, received the bulk of students — a total of 827, including 562 females.

The College of Commercial Studies followed next with 611 enrolments, out of which 232 were females.

The College of Technology received 433 students including 97 females.

The remainder of students were distributed among the Health Sciences College, the

Communication Centre, the Electricity Training Centre and the Special Training Courses.

Courses at the various colleges will begin next month.

Jail for brewing and selling liquor

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a defendant identified as S.G. to four and a half years in jail for brewing and selling alcohol, and possession of pornographic tapes and magazines.

The Court was told that the accused worked as an engineer for the Kuwait Oil (KOC) and was paid KD1,570 per month.

The Court sentenced the defendant to three and a half years in jail for manufacturing alcohol and one year for the possession of pornographic tapes and magazines to be followed by deportation. A fine of KD20 for smuggling of contraband was also imposed.

He noted that, apart from the 7-year-old girl who died after being infected with the AIDS virus by contaminated blood during surgery abroad, no other child has died.

There are three other Kuwaitis carrying the virus.

10 new cases of meningitis reported

THE Ministry of Public Health has reported 10 new cases of meningitis.

A newborn child has already died from the disease in an intensive care unit. The ages of the other patients range from 3 to 59 years. None of them have relatives who went for Haj this year.

Most people (about 80 per cent) have natural immunity against the disease, but children are more susceptible than adults.

PAI donation

THE Public Authority for Civil Information yesterday said it will donate one day's pay of its staff to flood victims in Sudan.

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HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah (right) in conversation with Othman Al Mirghani (second right) during a tea party held in honour of Al Mirghani.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

HH the Amir also met with the Hungarian ambassador to Kuwait who sought permission to leave the country at the end of his mission.

Crown Prince holds reception

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah held a reception last evening in honour of the leader of the Sudanese Democratic Union Party, Mohammed Othman Al Mirghani.

The reception was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and other senior officials.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Partition looms over Lebanon

KUWAITI newspapers yesterday warned that failure to elect a new patriotic president of all Lebanon could split the Arab country.

One daily said the danger of partition has loomed over Lebanon ever since the civil war broke out in 1975, but increases in times of military or political chaos such as the current deadlock over a successor to outgoing President Amin Gemayel.

The newspaper pointed out that dividing Lebanon has always been part of an Israeli dream to create small and weak sectarian states.

Such a scheme, the newspaper commented editorially, found support only among a small band of right-wing Christians in Lebanon, chiefly the former president-elect Bashir Gemayel, who was killed in a bomb explosion, and his Phalangist militia who received arms and military training from the Zionists.

But the paper stressed that the majority in the Lebanese Christian community have not fallen victim to the Israeli schemes and reject any plots to split their country along sectarian lines.

The paper echoed the warning of Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch, Nasrallah Sifri, against dividing the country, and his call for national unity.

Another daily launched a scathing attack on rival militias and political parties who are blocking the election of a successor to Gemayel.

"It is regrettable that political feuds between armed parties in Lebanon have reached a point whereby they are seeking foreign assistance to impose their views or choice of presidential nominee," the paper concluded.

The daily expressed astonishment that the month-old bickering has been over nominees, and not about their political programmes or constitutional reforms.

"Those speaking of a constitutional vacuum are the ones blocking the election of a president and are leading the country into comprehensive vacuum, which represents part of Lebanon's overall dilemma over the past 14 years," the paper concluded.

GULF PRESS

Call for more support for PLO

A United Arab Emirates daily called for more support for the PLO in its latest diplomatic initiative aimed at achieving a fair settlement by establishing a Palestinian state-in-exile.

The Dubai-based newspaper said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip presented a special challenge to Israel and focused world attention on Middle East peace moves.

"It has created a momentum for a settlement which even the West is finding hard to ignore," the paper pointed out.

"Adding to Israel's worries is the diplomatic campaign launched by the PLO for a government-in-exile, and the declaration of an independent Palestinian state," it added.

The extent of Israel's "panic" was clear when it sent a senior politician to a West European state to counter the PLO drive, it said.

"In this context it is not entirely without significance that the European Parliament has invited PLO chairman Arafat to address it," the newspaper said.

The daily urged the UN secretary-general and West European leaders to "come out unambiguously in favour of Palestinians — and have the satisfaction of speaking out for justice and of advancing the cause of peace and liberty."

"An even heavier responsibility rests with the Arab world," it said.

"It is unfortunate that there haven't been as many clear-cut statements in support of the PLO's latest diplomatic initiative as there should have been," the newspaper said.

"The Palestinians need to be told clearly and openly that in whatever they decide they will find the rest of the Arab world on their side," it stressed.

Saudi-Jordanian talks

SAUDI newspapers yesterday commented on domestic, Arab and international issues.

A Jeddah-based newspaper highlighted strong relations between Saudi Arabia and Jordan and said the meeting between King Fahd and King Hussein was within the framework of bilateral consultations for the benefit of Arabs.

The newspaper said the talks came at an important time in the light of ongoing direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran in Geneva and the heroic Palestinian uprising in Palestine.

The daily said it hopes that the Saudi-Jordanian talks will bring good results for bilateral relations and the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on the Palestinian cause, another Jeddah-based daily said top priority should be given to strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian relations to enable the Palestinian people to set up an independent state on their homeland.

Another daily said the American stand towards the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

"We should take into account the increasing desire of American and some European parties to listen to the Palestinian viewpoint," it said.

Referring to the current stalemate in Iraq-Iran peace talks, a Dammam-based newspaper said the impasse does not surprise political observers who are aware of Iran's stubbornness and unclear political vision.

The daily added that Iraq always welcomed peace initiatives and worked for pursuing the peace process, while Iran created snags for a peaceful settlement.

VIDEO CORNER

A tale of inept ghosts

By Gail Seery

I HAVE a question. If writer A and writer B collaborate to produce a story, and then writer A and writer C turn it into a screenplay, what happened to writer B? Did writer A become crazed with visions of huge profits, and kill him off? Or did writer B just prove totally unco-operative and unimaginative? If so, which bits of the original story were his? Whatever the reasons, I think the public has the right to know.

In fact, I spent the early minutes of *Betelgeuse* (pronounced *Beetlejuice*, and spelt that way on the video label) wondering exactly what had come between the two writers of the original story. But not for long: what starts as a fairly nebulous sort of film quickly develops into a thoroughly entertaining and compelling story.

A young married couple is killed in a clean and painless car crash, and find themselves doomed to haunt their beautiful country farm house for the next hundred and fifty years. The couple were childless, but had loved their large old house with its quaint, traditional decor, and the little, rural town outside. The husband, played by Michael Keaton, has even painstakingly built an accurate scale model of



Peter Sellers

the town, and has added to it continually as minor details change. He even includes the local cemetery, which after the crash, includes their gravesites.

The couple don't find being ghosts very pleasant. At first life appears to continue as normal, and they think they have survived the crash, but then they realise they have no recollection of their journey from the bottom of the river back to the house, and more disturbingly, that they no longer have any reflection in the mirror. The final clincher is the "Handbook for the Recently Deceased", which they find on the coffee table.

The pair quickly find that being dead is not much fun, and are appalled to find that they are trapped in the house. The wife, played by Geena Davis,

finds it particularly hard to cope, and storms out of the door before her husband can rescue her, and has to be rescued from a gigantic dolphin-cum-sand worm in a desert wasteland. Even the boredom they have to endure is preferable to that desert, but then a new family arrives, which quickly makes plans to completely redecorate and distort the house.

The ghosts try everything they can to scare them away but prove rather inept and wimpy at haunting, resorting to dressing in designer sheets, because no-one but the teenage daughter can see them.

Finally, when the newcomers realise their house is haunted, they make plans to exploit the ghosts, who hide out in the attic with their model of the town.

Betelgeuse is the apparent answer. He is not a very nice ghost at all, and claims to be able to "exercise the living". At first the couple see him as an ideal solution to their problems, but then they meet him, and see him trying to put some of his schemes into effect. They realise that no matter how much they hate the new family, they can't allow *Betelgeuse* to have his way.

The film develops into a conflict between wanting the family to leave, especially as they are now posing a direct

Maggie Smith stars in *Murder by Death*

threat to the ghosts, and the desire to protect them from *Betelgeuse*.

It was recommended to me as a "silly" film I was bound to like, but I'd substitute the word "weird" for silly. It's full of very impressive special effects, and macabre carryings on, but is well-worked, and deserves to be seen.

Murder by Death is not a new film by any stretch of the imagination. It was made in 1976, from a story by Neil Simon, in which he parodies almost every better known whodunit character. The film is pretty baffling and silly, and no

matter how hard the viewer concentrates, it is difficult to discern exactly who did what to whom and why. The stars include Peter Sellers, David Niven, Maggie Smith, Peter Falk and Truman Capote. I missed it when it came out, and was strongly advised to see it by a colleague. I would pass on that recommendation — it is a very funny film indeed, and deserves any analysis of its plot.

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PRAYERS

Fajr	4.03 am
Zuhr	11.48
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	6.10
Isha	7.29

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Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Fahad Al Salem St., Al Jandouli Bldg.
Hawally and Nugra
Al Sabah Pharmacy
Beruit St., Nugra
Salmiya and Rumeithiya
Hiba Pharmacy
Salami Al Mubarak St.
Fahheel and Almadi
Al Khalij Pharmacy
Muja' St., Fahheel
Rieqa
Al Riqqa Pharmacy
Badr Al Salem Alali Bldg., No. 12
Jleeb Al Shuyukh
Al Taa'won Pharmacy
Main St., Jari Commercial Complex
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
opp. Jahra co-op complex

Kuwait will hold a meeting on Monday, Sept 5, at Far East Restaurant at 7.45 pm sharp. Topics to be discussed include forthcoming PBAK inter-commercial bowling tournament to be held on Sept 9 at 300 Club at 9 am. Revised rules and regulations will be distributed to all team captains. Fees must be settled. All team captains are requested to attend the meeting. For details contact PBAK Director Sarah Macarimbang Tel: 4843447.

The recent Eurovision song contest is now available on video.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Nau, Salmiya Complex, Tel: 243-2809; Video Club, Salmiya, Tel: 5724372.

appallingly refereed). Good performances from the three main actors and a 'nice' story that is bound to appeal, but the film is scarcely a knock-out.

Continuing the saga of the world's greatest detective, *The Scarlet Claw* is considered by many to be the best of the Universal productions. Made in 1944, it is unusually well scripted and directed. The doom laden atmospheric plot about Holmes' apparent inability to stop a supernatural killer gives a tension not normally found to this puzzling murder-mystery set in a remote Canadian village with a bloody past. Released with this was *Sherlock Holmes and The Spider Woman*, also made in 1944.

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Sabah Trophy Meeting
The Sabah Cricket Tournament's organising committee will hold a general meeting on Sept 1, 7.30 pm, at Alia Restaurant, Sharq. All participating teams are requested to attend. For details phone Naseem Khurshid — 4815077 ext. 513.

Boys' Own Club
Boys' Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (Oct 22/23). Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

Masters Bowling Tournament
Semi-finals and final rounds for the Masters tournament for men and women will be held on Thursday, 6.30 pm, Sept 1, and Friday, 9 am, Sept 2. Forty-eight top bowlers will play in the men's division on Thursday. Eight players will play in the women's division on Friday. All qualifiers must come on Thursday at 3.00 pm, behind US Embassy.

Sabah United
The Sabah United Sports Centre will hold their third annual Gold Cup Football Tournament starting Sept 9. Those interested may contact Peter 2434415 or Mariano 4744150 after 5 pm, before Sept 1. The draw will be held on Sept 2 at 9 am, at the Phoenix hotel.

Arab Ramada
Al Bendar coffee shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to midnight, a la carte.

At Messiah Beach
Al Mubarakiah restaurant, open 24 hours, offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a variety of snacks.

Sports
14th Winners Cup Cricket tournament
The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open 14th Winners Cup Cricket tournament, beginning Sept 16. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the Ahmadi Governorate ground located behind the Computer Centre. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Souza, Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm.

PBAK Meeting
The officers of the Philippines Bowlers Association in

By Shaun Seekins

MY Little Girl is a neat variation of the "coming of age" theme so popular with American film-makers. Sixteen-year-old Franny Bettinger (Mary Stuart Masterson) persuades the overburdened Mr Bailey (James Earl Jones) to let her work in his temporary city shelter for children who have been wards of the state. He is impressed by her enthusiasm, but wary of her obvious naivety. Bailey assigns Franny three cases: Joan (Erika Alexander), her younger, withdrawn, sister Camille and foul-mouthed Alice (Traci Lin), a budding hooker.

Inevitably, Franny becomes too involved. After Joan is transferred to another, more brutal, centre, Franny is unwillingly at first, then more culpably, involved in aiding her escape. Franny has also been devising a variety show to be performed by the kids and she manages to present this to rap-

Coming of age

turous acclaim before the roof falls in on her. Bailey discovers her involvement in Joan's escape and tells her to leave.

A well meaning drama, admirably produced by Merchant Ivory, it makes a pleasant change to see them involved in a contemporary film instead of their meticulous period recreations. Films like *A Room With a View* and *The Bostonians* having gained for them a reputation which can only be enhanced by other films similar to *My Little Girl*.

Streets of Gold is a "Rocky IV" with a moral" film, and although Klaus Maria Brandauer does his best with a rather narrowly conceived role, it definitely lacks Rocky's punch. Brandauer plays a former Soviet boxing champion who is denied his chance to represent the USSR at the Olympics because of his religion, and ends up in Brighton Beach.

Reservations and further details, contact Roland 2430581 or James 5331940.

Indian Ballet

Narthana, a dance troupe led by Mohiniyattam exponent Mrs Prema Surendran, will stage a ballet, Panchavati, and a number of Nrithaslas at its annual show, Nrithaslas, at the Indian Arts Circle, on Sept 22 at 7.00 pm. Admission will be strictly limited; for free passes, call 4337608.

Sounds Great

Auditions will be held on Sept 15-17 for singers and dancers for the next Sounds Great show, to be held at the Salmiya cinema on Oct 19-22. For details ring Ken Winston or Adolf 5740256/7 or 5758870. *Tareq Rajab Museum*

The museum in Jabiya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timelings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat. thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

SOCIAL

Country Western Musical
The American Community Theatre is rounding up singers, dancers and musicians for their annual Country and Western musical, to be held at the end of September. Interested talents, contact Nancy Parker 2523911 ext. 2346, 5725071 (evenings) or Nola Anderson 2428366.

Welcome Back To Kuwait

The Sounds Great organisation will hold a "Welcome Back to Kuwait" dance party at the Messilah Beach hotel on Sept 29, at 8 pm. Music by the Sounds Great bands. For reservations and further details ring Ken Winston or Adolf 5740256/7 or 5758870. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome.

Y.M.C.A.

The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1 at 8.30 pm. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks and Stepping Stones will be in attendance. For reservations, contact J. D'Sa at 2450279, 3981790, 3924659. *Varca Sporting Centre*

Varca Sporting Centre will hold their third annual social evening at the Tent SAS hotel on Sept 22 at 8.00 pm. Music will be provided by Top Ranks and Stepping Stones. For

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Friday.

Muslim Arts Museum

The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

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WHAT'S ON

Arab Ramada
Al Bendar coffee shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to midnight, a la carte.

At the Sheraton

Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo's is closed on Fridays. A selection of seafood is offered in Al Hambra on Wednesday night. The Marcus Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12.30 pm to 3 pm and 7.30-11.30 pm.

At the Kuwait Plaza

The Al Dhalah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a set menu mini business lunch. Ice-cream festival at the International Food Arcade: light snacks also available; open 10.00 am to 11.00 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday. The Marco Polo restaurant offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmad Coffee Shop offers international buffet, meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; a la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at the Viennese Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are an ideal place to relax with friends.

At Messiah Beach

Al Mubarakiah restaurant, open 24 hours, offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a variety of snacks.

SPORTS

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE is only one success — to be able to spend your life in your own way — Christopher Morley, US writer (1890-1957).

King Hussein's split with West Bank

A challenge for all

By John Rice

AMMAN, Jordan, (AP): King Hussein's disengagement from the West Bank has thrust the Palestinians' fate solely into the hands of the PLO and pulled the plug on 20 years of US Middle East peace strategies.

His July 31 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the Israeli-occupied territory also pulled the rug out from Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

He has advocated the "Jordanian option," under which Amman would take the Palestinians off Israel's hands, while leaving the Jewish state controlling strategic parts of the West Bank.

Hussein's move also was a major step toward cementing a Jordanian identity among the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees Jordan welcomed after the 1948 and 1967 wars with Israel.

Most Jordanians are from refugee families. They have identified with the king on one side and Palestine on the other.

Now they'll have to choose. Jordanian officials say West Bankers are no longer Jordanian citizens.

Withdraw

Since the 1967 war, the United States has called for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for peace. That cast Hussein as the Palestinian overseer.

After the 1973 war, moderate Israelis opted for the "Jordanian option," which would give Jordan a shrunken West Bank and the teeming Gaza Strip to block the creation of a Palestinian state on Israel's flank.

Gaza was Egyptian territory until 1967. But Jordan, through its links with the West Bank, assumed much of the responsibility for its 650,000 inhabitants, most of them Palestinian refugees.

Israel and the United States rejected the 1974 Arab summit resolution naming the PLO the Palestinians' sole representative, even as the years weakened Hussein's influence in the West Bank and bolstered the PLO.

Hussein has repeatedly tried to bridge the gap between Israel and the United States and the PLO. But neither side offered enough concessions to lure the other.

Deaths of Arab workers spark fear

By William B. Ries

OR YEHUDA, Israel, (UPI): The pale green shed, its door blackened by flames, still stands at the edge of the construction site, a charred symbol of the rising wave of violence and fear in Israel between Arabs and Jews.

On the night of Aug. 8, the three Arab workers burned to death in the windowless hut where they slept illegally instead of returning each night to their home in Gaza's squatters' camps.

"These Arab people came here to work and they were killed," said Meyer Shell, 40. "It was the most disgusting violent thing. It shouldn't have happened."

The deaths sparked widespread rioting in Gaza and brought fear to the tens of thousands of Arabs who travel from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to jobs in Israel.

"Most of the people here are afraid to go to Israel, but they must go," said Mahmud Salim Abed, 65, the uncle of Nisim Ibrahim Abed, one of the slain workers. "They go only to work, not to make strikes, to throw bottles."

Condemned

Although widely condemned by Arabs and Jews, the deaths and subsequent attacks have widened the circle of violence and fear among Jews and Arabs trying to work together in the shadow of the 8-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Nearly two weeks later, a hand grenade exploded on a busy pedestrian mall in Haifa, injuring 25 Jews. Four West Bank Palestinians were arrested.

The following day, three firebombs and a smoke bomb were thrown into the yard of a Jewish home in Or Yehuda, a city of 21,000 founded in the early 1950s by Jewish immigrants from Arab countries.

In recent days, several Arab workers have been severely

beaten by groups of Jews in the Tel Aviv area.

"People are frightened," said Uri Hakin, 52, a Jewish construction contractor from Iraq who came to Israel in 1951. "It starts a cycle of revenge. It's not a local thing."

Many of Or Yehuda's people say the 1,000 Palestinian labourers who work here are welcome. But they don't deny relations have soured.

"Until the beginning of the uprising, some Arab guys used to go out with the girls from here," said Ya'acov Zacharia, "since then things have become polarized."

At the construction site where the burned shed stands, work continued on an extension of the Or Yehuda community centre. Sub-contractor Asher Shitrit, 43, a Jew born in Morocco, said the slain workers were friends and hard workers who slept at the site to save on car fare.

"We have memories about the Nazis. We are very sensitive about these things," he said. "The Nazis burned us with gas, but here people were burned with live fire, it is impossible to grasp."

The spirit of pragmatic cooperation encouraged by Hon-

A symbol of black resistance

Mandela poses dilemma for South Africa

By David Crary

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, (AP): Through 26 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela has evolved steadily into an almost superhuman symbol of black resistance to apartheid.

Now 70, stricken with tuberculosis, the African National Congress leader's international stature is at a peak, and he is locked in a test of wills with President P.W. Botha that will have a profound impact on South Africa's future.

Since Mandela was hospitalized Aug. 12, Botha has come under unpreceded pressure, here and abroad, to free the man who many believe would be a leader if black South Africans could vote.

"We also came to realize that the Israelis and Americans made use of the fact that there was a legal relationship between Jordan and the West Bank to procrastinate, to find pretexts for not negotiating a peace official told the Associated Press.

Now, he said, talks about Palestine are up to Israel and the PLO. The king vowed to back any PLO stands, as well as an independent Palestinian state.

To underscore that point, the palace official said Jordan has backed away from its long-standing call for an instant confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state, cutting the bond US officials had seen as a crucial part of peace efforts.

Hussein has insisted his action is irrevocable, an historic split with the West Bank that his grandfather, King Abdullah, absorbed in 1950.

The PLO, caught off guard by Hussein's dramatic move, has responded by planning to declare an independent Palestinian state and a provisional government, which likely will be based on recognition of Israel's right to exist.

That would mark a major shift for an organization that has formally advocated a "democratic secular state" to replace Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has vowed to crush Palestinian independence efforts.

That would leave Israel with the choice of riding out the storm in the West Bank and Gaza, imposing a sort of sub-state there run by Israeli-backed collaborators or gradually trying to squeeze out the West Bankers.

Jordanian officials have tried to soften the wrench of Hussein's decision. The monarch assured Palestinians in Jordan that they retain full rights as citizens of the kingdom.

But he has made clear that when they can eventually choose Palestinian citizenship, they will have to be loyal citizens of Jordan while in the kingdom.

Diplomats, analysts and Bonn officials agree that Honecker's trip has been an apparent suspension of the East German policy to shoot civilians trying to flee over the fenced border to West Germany.

But despite such advances, there is no sign that West Germans have broken down many barriers to grassroots contact.

Visits to West Germany by East Germans under pensioner's age, rare two years ago, are now almost common. The number doubled to 1.2 million in 1987 and is expected to be higher this year.

West Berliners visiting family in East Berlin can now stay overnight, instead of having to return the West by midnight.

Twinnings of East and West Germans are multiplying.

In the cultural sphere, the West Berlin-based archives of the Bauhaus Architectural School went on display in East Germany this summer. To open the exhibit, Eberhard Diepgen gave the first speech by a West Berlin mayor on East German soil.

Bonn government leaders warned such incidents put a fresh burden on inter-German relations.

"This was a cold shower on everyone who put on rose-coloured glasses after the Honecker visit in the expectation of fundamental improvement in the Germans' relationship," a Bonn-based Western diplomat said.

The spirit of pragmatic cooperation encouraged by Hon-

Mandela, caught in a dilemma from which there is no easy escape.

Keeping Mandela in jail will intensify the international protests and pose the risk of a furious response by blacks if their most esteemed leader dies behind bars.

Protest

Yet freeing an unrepentant Mandela will outrage right-wing whites, and could revive militant black opposition activity that has been heavily suppressed under a 26-month-old state of emergency.

These conflicting pressures leave Botha in a bind. Government officials say he is unlikely to choose the bolder option of release without some sort of concession from Mandela, such as tacit acceptance of the government's demand for a renunciation of violence.

Mandela's supporters believe he will accept nothing short of unconditional freedom. They recall 1986, when Mandela said he would not renounce violence until the government unbanned

violence of apartheid and that for which Mandela was imprisoned, that of Mandela is like a Sunday school picnic.

Release

Calls for Mandela's release are coming not only from blacks and white liberals, but also from some conservative whites. The pro-government, Afrikaans-language newspaper *Beeld* incurred Botha's wrath this month after twice urging that Mandela be freed.

Some analysts argue that the ANC's exiled leadership benefits more with Mandela behind bars than if he were free.

"As long as he is in jail, he cannot make a mistake. And yet he might, once free, especially because people have high expectations from him," said Chris Maritz, a political science professor at the University of Potchefstroom.

"There is no violence worse than apartheid," wrote black newspaper editor Khulu Sibiya. "If one were to weigh the

violence of apartheid and that for which Mandela was imprisoned, that of Mandela is like a Sunday school picnic."

Mike Hough, director of the Institute for Strategic Studies at University of Pretoria, suggested that some ANC leaders might prefer that Mandela die in jail. This would give the ANC a

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Hassan Fathi takes his goats to hospital on a donkey. The Brooke hospital in Egypt was founded in 1934 and has treated over 250,000 animals.

Charity-funded animal hospital thrives in Cairo

By John Rogers

CAIRO: A truck hit Wagdi Fikri's donkey and apparently broke its leg.

"If it's fractured, I'll put it to sleep. If not I will treat it," said veterinary surgeon Salah Fahmi as the animal was put into his donkey ambulance by a hydraulic hoist.

He offered Fikri, a garrageman, eight pounds (four dollars) in compensation for having his donkey out of action.

Fahmi, who works for the Brooke Hospital for animals, is a popular "outsider" in the slums of Mokattam where the garrageman, called "Zebeleen," live.

Grubby children hail him as "doctor". Zebeleen with sick donkey's stop at points on his daily route for open-air clinics — antiseptic sprayed on saddle-sores, perhaps, or a quick jab in the neck to inoculate an animal against tetanus.

Fahmi shouts "bravo" to the driver of a garbage-laden cart rattling past.

"He's keeping his donkeys especially well," he says. Another gets a "bravo" for not using a stick.

Fahmi has worked 13 years for the Brooke Hospital, a charity founded by a British animal-lover before World War Two and kept thriving by — at least in part — old ladies.

It has clinics in Alexandria, on the Mediterranean coast, and Luxor in southern Egypt.

Jordan's Princess Alia opened the first Brooke clinic outside Egypt on March 30 in the ancient rock city of Petra, a popular tourist site.

The Brooke Hospital appears to have several advan-

tages over government-run clinics, including money from abroad.

It's £100,000 to 200,000 (\$180,000 to 360,000) annual budget is funded by some 3,000 donors — mostly British and mostly women.

"We do have lots of old ladies. They're very, very important," says Richard Searight, organising secretary and grandson of the army general's wife who founded the hospital.

key owner might be given 25 to 50 pounds (\$12 to 24).

"We offer to buy the animal," says Hassan Sami, deputy director of the hospital. "They trust us. They know it's of no benefit for us to take it. We don't take any animal by force."

Payment is needed because many owners are too poor to let their animals off work for treatment, even for a day.

"We regard ourselves as half dealing with animals, half with humans because we affect the family finances so much," said Searight. "We help them exclusively by keeping the animals on the road."

Most Zebeleen are Christians, and children often drive the donkey carts.

Fahmi brings pictures of Jesus riding on a donkey into Sunday schools in Zebeleen communities.

"I tell them: don't keep the animals without water. Let them rest on the road," he said.

For long-term improvement in the way animals are treated, it is the children who are important, says Searight.

"Adults are much more difficult to change. Children you can work with."

Apart from running mobile clinics in Cairo's teeming markets and Zebeleen slums, the hospital can handle up to 134 horses and donkeys as inpatients and dozens convalescing or awaiting slaughter. It has surgery for sheep, goats and dogs.

Most patients are injured in traffic. Some are worked too hard or otherwise maltreated. There were 670 "destruction cases" last year in Cairo and 120 in Luxor and Alexandria.

"We give them a good send-off. We give them seven luxurious days before putting them down," said Searight. "We've done that since the 1930s." Animals in great pain are killed immediately.

Treatment is free of charge and the hospital compensates owners of animals fit only for slaughter which would otherwise be worked to death. A don-

Love... with a little human help

By Delthia Ricks

LOS ANGELES (UPI): She gave him a sideward glance like the ones sailors recall in their reveries on lonely nights at sea.

The season, so it seemed, was favouring love and courtship, forcing an ancient ritual scripted in their genes — hearts pounding, blood flowing faster. The urges were far beyond their control.

And even though this couple was a pair of canvasback ducks, they were in love and relished every minute of it.

"Once he takes on that color, she's attracted to him," said Dr Warren Thomas, director of the Los Angeles Zoo.

"But he has to do more than that," Thomas said of the colourful display of plumage.

taken on in breeding season by the male canvasback. "He has to get himself into showbiz — head bobbing and struts. It's one thing to get her attention. It's another to pair-bond."

Thomas, a veterinarian, monitors courtship and breeding practices of all of the zoo's animals.

Many, from birds to primates, are in danger of becoming extinct in the wild, making courtship and subsequent mating all the more important in zoos, even if the attraction between animals sometimes requires a nudge or two from humans.

"We really have no problem with the chimpanzees," Thomas explained, "but the gorillas are much more difficult. You have to be careful about how you work them together."

"In the old days, when we brought them out of the wild, they identified with people and not other gorillas. So we've learned to break that to help them breed in captivity," he said.

Some of the animals bred in zoos are returned to the wild in attempts to increase populations, which are declining because of human encroachment of natural habitats, especially in developing countries. Others are bred and returned to the wild to ensure thriving populations that may have once been decimated by poaching.

Exclusive bamboo-shoot diet leading to decline Saving the panda: a world-wide challenge

By Marcia Bliss Marks

PEKING — I kept hearing hoofbeats under my head — back and forth, back and forth. It was not yet dawn and we were stretched out on bedding on the second floor of an abandoned farmhouse.

The night had been a restless one — a long, futile watch at the window, then to bed, only to be awakened by Xiao Wei, a graduate student doing field research, to glimpse the shadowy bulk of one takin after another emerging from the forest to lick salt and romp in a mud puddle.

I got to the window just in time to see two huge creatures exiting from the floor beneath us, where they had been looking for more salt. The second of the two stopped, and slowly, deliberately, turned his head around. He stared, and then, with immense dignity, snorted and moved on again. His rump looked as broad as the proverbial barn door beneath me. It was unimaginable that he could slip so silently through the bamboo undergrowth.

Takin are a protected species related to the musk ox, with moose-like faces, shaggy coats, and thick curled-back horns.

They inhabit much of the same environment as the giant panda, but because they are vastly less appealing in looks and somewhat less endangered, they have not attracted the same worldwide attention. In Sichuan Province's Tangjiahe Nature Reserve, however, they are under intense study.

Tangjiahe, about 400 square kilometres (150 square miles) of rugged mountains, is one of a dozen or so nature reserves set up to protect the giant panda. Of the three we visited in Sichuan, it was the most uninhabited (by humans), and, in mid-autumn with the turning leaves stitching breathtaking broadscales on the slopes, the most beautiful.

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The dearth of bamboo species and the destruction of habitat through logging and agriculture have caused starvation and possible extinction for the panda.

panda had been chewing on the bamboo.

In its over 3 million years of existence, the giant panda, called a living fossil, has evolved two specializations for eating bamboo: forepaws adapted for grasping stems through the addition of a sixth digit, or thumb, and teeth that are broad and flat for crushing bamboo.

Unfortunately, the panda's reliance on an exclusive diet of bamboo, has led to its peril. The death of bamboo species and the destruction of habitat through logging and agriculture have caused starvation. The panda's low-quality diet forces it to forage at intervals day and night, rest much and, when active, concentrate on keeping its stomach filled.

Reproduction is slow; pandas conceive after 6-1/2 years and raise one cub every two years. If two babies are born, the mother raises only one.

Some scientists feel the panda has lost its sense of struggle and has become defenseless, without the adaptability needed to survive. They say the panda, highly specialized and highly localized because of its choice of a single source of food, provides a living blueprint for extinction. Thus, saving the panda has become a worldwide challenge.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has taken this lovable creature as its representative. WWF has also pumped money and expertise into China's panda reserves. One of these is Wolong Nature Reserve, 2,000 square kilometres (770 square miles), established in 1963.

Farming, logging, hunting,

and livestock grazing had degraded the giant panda's habitat at Wolong. But in 1975 logging was halted, and in 1980 a breeding and research station was set up in cooperation with the WWF. Ten pandas were in residence at the time of our visit, including the baby of them all, Lan Tian (Blue Sky), the first panda born at Wolong through artificial insemination. He is now a bouncy, tumbling, tame one-year-old.

The pandas live well, with house, playground, and plenty of food. When Qiu Xianmeng, their veterinarian, calls them by name, they come.

Mr Qiu took us to an area where year-round field research on the ecology of giant pandas and other wildlife is carried out. The mountain trail wound through densely moss-draped evergreens and tall rhododendron. The leaf-strewn path was etched in white, the serenity of the surroundings occasionally broken by gleaming red birches.

Midway, our guide got out his listening apparatus to monitor the movements of pandas wearing radio collars — two red pandas and two giant pandas. We could hear the ticks, faster or slower, depending on how active the animals were. We could tell the direction, but we would have a long, probably fruitless climb through thick underbrush to find any. Red pandas, small raccoon-like creatures, are notoriously elusive, and giant pandas are nearly as hard to come upon.

We climbed to a tent used by the young researchers for night observation. Gauges marked

precipitation levels, and our guide carefully took notes — as he had all along the way — of birds sighted and, of course, the condition of various species of bamboo. The giant panda's habitat was indeed nearly inaccessible, yet beautiful.

Later that day we returned to reserve headquarters. A drive alongside the rushing, rock-filled Pitiao River to the reserve's high pass at Balangshan, 4,487 metres (14,717 feet) above sea-level, showed how difficult, if not impossible, it would be to clear the reserve of its more than 3,000 local inhabitants. This was a main truck and bus route cutting right through the reserve's centre.

The reserve had built a power station to generate electricity, and houses and a school on its fringes, but residents refused to move.

The third major panda reserve we visited had a reputation as a tourist attraction rather than a serious research centre. Jiuzaigou, covering 600 square kilometres, was established in 1978 and is a fantasy of water landscapes. Our route there took us past

team after team of gold prospectors working the river with huge hoses to dredge the sand, and gracious, fretworked, wooden houses festooned with hanging clusters of corn.

Racks and trees were draped with everything from beans to cabbage to persimmons, all air-drying for winter consumption. Pairs of oxen were plowing the fields. The residents were dressed in traditional costume, the women in gowns of rainbow colours, the men in belted swagger coats, all topped off with flat-brimmed hats and tall,

perky feathers.

The attraction of Jiuzaigou is its abundance of water — broad waterfalls and nearly continuous lakes. Particularly incredible was sight of clumps of trees and shrubs amid the fast-moving waters. The lakes are very clear reflecting mirrors, kaleidoscopes of cobalt blues, emerald greens, and deep purples.

The reserve's managers are entirely engrossed in matters of tourism — from clearing up litter to construction of a Tibetan-style guest house. Managing tourists is in a way, protecting wildlife. Indeed, there seems to be progress along that line; driving along the roads we encountered large flocks of pheasants that were in no hurry to disperse.

Jiuzaigou's extraordinary beauty, like that of other once-remote areas, was taken for granted by its inhabitants, who didn't realize its potential for tourism. Only in recent years have such areas been "discovered" and marked for development. The Chinese have taken to travel with a vengeance, and Jiuzaigou has become a must for all semiadventurers.

From Jiuzaigou, we made our way back to Chengdu, the provincial capital. Our mission was to pay a visit to Mei Mei, champion panda mother, at the Chengdu Zoo. Six of Mei Mei's offspring are still living, and she is such a steady producer that zoo officials now take her cubs away at about seven months so she can give birth every year. (Normally the young leave their mother at about 18 months.)

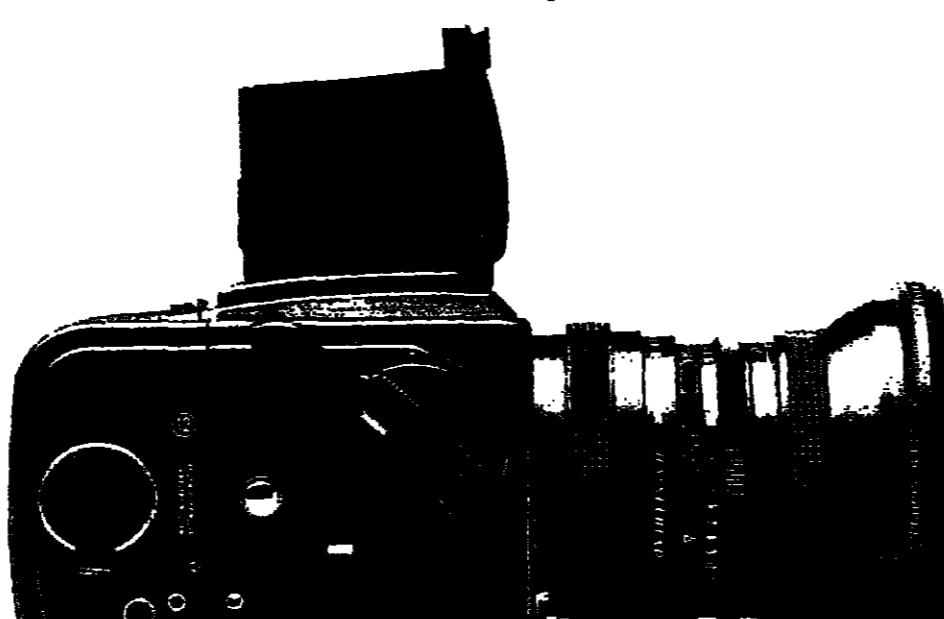
Mei Mei is one of more than 10 pandas at the zoo. Although they are well taken care of and the zoo's reproduction programme is supported by WWF, it is disturbing to see these wild creatures so confined — more so even than at the Wolong research station.

Watching Mei Mei, a smallish female, noticed her pigeon-toed gait. A zoo panda expert explained that it helped her plow through bamboo thickets as she foraged in the wild.

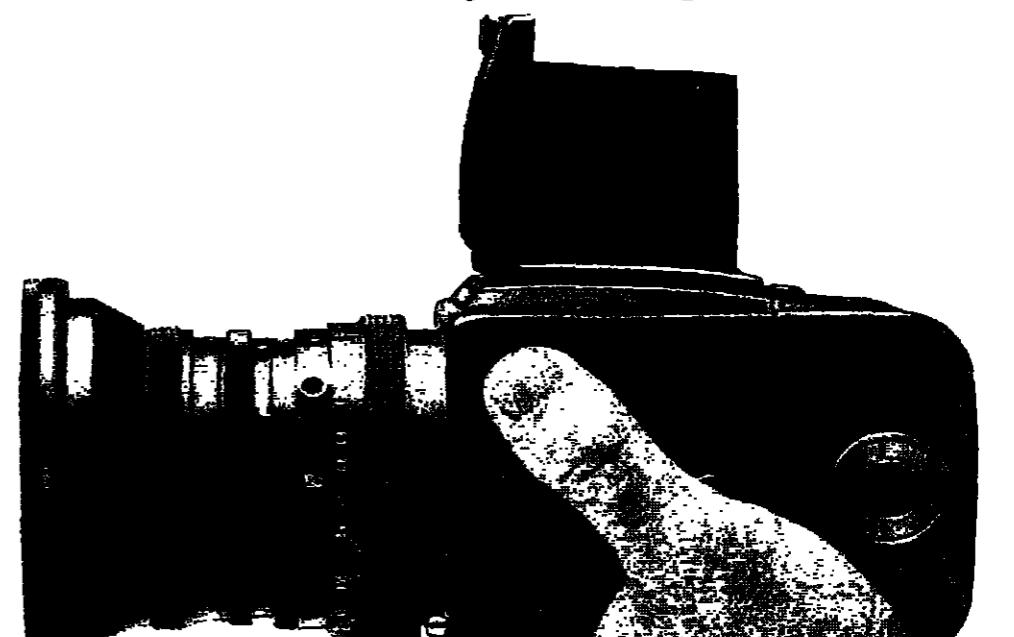
I was reminded once again of the curious relationship between beast and food source, still a mystery that is tied up in the scientific guessing-game of whether the giant panda is more closely related to the raccoon or the bear. Such things are for scientists to ponder, and the literature on the subject has done little but exacerbate the controversy. Meanwhile, the creature is the focus of intercontinental conservation efforts and one of Sichuan's most precious inhabitants.

1988, The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

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كتاب من المطبعة

By Kathy Cuddyh

I HAVE a washing machine which its manufacturers describe as "the appliance of science." Believe me, this is not just empty advertising hype. This machine is so sophisticated that I swear it has a mind of its own. Any machine that throws a mechanical tantrum as soon as the warranty expires is not just smart, it's calculating. The maddening thing is that the machine only gets used during the summer months, so it didn't even put in a full year's work.

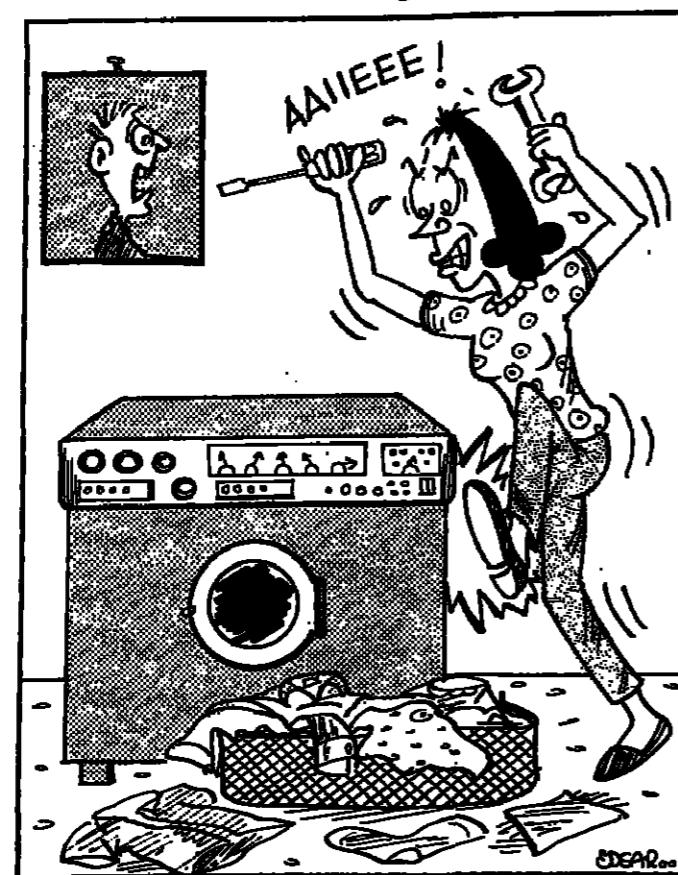
Since our Irish cottage is located in the most rural areas, persuading repair men to come out to diagnose a wonky washer seldom meets with an enthusiastic response. Inevitably it incurs inconvenient delays.

"Sure I could possibly be makin' it your way sometime next week," volunteers the congenial service representative who lives 1 1/2 hours away.

"Possibly?" I stutter. "SOMETIME next week? I don't think you understand my problem. I don't just have a malfunctioning machine. I have a house full of kids who produce more dirty clothes than even an appliance of science can handle without feeling a little breathless at times. My laundry is piling up faster than the national debt. You can't abandon me like this in my hour of need." But of course he can, and he invariably does.

In self-defence, let me say at this point that the washing machine isn't the only one in the house with a mind of its own. I may be not programmed to the same intricate level as my temperamental washer, but my primitive, unimaginative forms of

Washday blues



retaliation have usually proven to be pretty effective. A basic, well-placed kick used to work quite nicely until my appliance of science overcame this ploy and created a quick less easy to remedy. Then I discovered that the appearance of a screwdriver worked even better than a kick. The mere threat of me and my inexperience tampering with its innards would get the machine to hastily rethink its strategy of stubbornness.

Disembowelment doesn't appeal to any of us, least of all to sophisticated circuitry.

Over the years, my machine and I have come to the conclusion that it is mutually advantageous to develop cautious tolerance

for one another. Now it hardly ever shrinks clothes or eats socks, and I hardly ever swear to trade it in for a regular, hard-working model that makes no pretense about being a scientific wonder.

Nevertheless, there have been dangerous lapses. Like the time when the machine chose to throw one of its temperamental tantrums on a day when I was already plagued by too many of Life's "downs." The wretched bucket of high-tech bolts had brought me to the verge of tears of frustration by refusing to even acknowledge that it was programmed to wash clothes, not act like a prima ballerina.

Then, with a better sense of timing than that shown by the washing machine,

one of Life's little "ups" occurred: some visitors arrived. Any by golly, wasn't one of them a most able handyman. He quickly produced screw-drivers, wrenches, and other related paraphernalia without giving a moment's thought to any sensitivities harboured by what he considered to be a mere machine. He effectively manipulated wires, turned screws, and pushed buttons until at last he announced, "There you are. It's as good as new." This, of course, was a dubious accolade since even in its new condition it showed disturbing signs of an over-bred nature. Still, the overhaul was a fine example for the supremacy of Man over Machine.

Yet even in the face of overwhelming defeat, my appliance of science still has the oomph (or the gall!) to display a bit of defiance. There's nothing much it can do about the expertly overhauled wiring and whatever else it hides under its lid, but it can (and does) let me know it's still alive and kicking by periodically causing its door to jam. This means I either can't get the machine to start (because the computer chip doesn't register that it's securely locked) or I can't get the clean clothes out of the machine (because the door is so securely locked.)

But even on this point we've arrived at a compromise: if I close the door gently and then give it a reassuring nudge with my bottom, the washing gets done without any problems. It seems that even a sophisticated appliance of science needs the assurance of a little love and attention. I only hope my dryer, dishwasher and fridge/freezer, made by the same manufacturer, don't develop similar insecurities.

By Jude Byrne

DO you travel well—or do you constantly worry that you will never arrive.

Do you thrive on change, uncertainty, and the possibility of disaster? Or when you set out for a destination do you like to arrive cool, calm and collected.

Do this fun quiz and find out if you travel like a fine wine or just wine!

1. You are at the airport waiting for your flight to be called. Is your passport:

- (a) clutched in your sweaty hand, even if you've already gone through passport control?
- (b) with your other travel documents?
- (c) where you left it... but you have checked it is still there at least six times?
- (d) you aren't sure?
- (e) it could still be at home. You've done that before?

2. You get lost in a foreign country. Do you:

- (a) stay loose and enjoy yourself?
- (b) stay calm and work out logically how to go about getting back into familiar territory?
- (c) stay put and find someone authoritative to ask?
- (d) panic?

3. Do you cope with foreign languages by:

- (a) taking a pre-travel course at night classes?
- (b) taking a phrase book?
- (c) taking a phrase book from which you have already learned some key words?
- (d) avoiding them. You only go where people speak your language?
- (e) if at first you are not understood — shout louder?

4. You are at the airport to catch a flight to the ski slopes when a heat haze hits your resort. Do you:

- (a) cancel and go home?
- (b) go ahead, because you've paid?
- (c) moan at the travel company?
- (d) go cheerfully. You are sure to have fun anyway?
- (e) go confidently. It's bound to snow in the next day or two?

5. A stranger pleads with you to deliver a birthday gift to an old aunt in the country you are going to. Do you:

- (a) always like to do a good turn when you can?
- (b) cross-examine them carefully before you agree?
- (c) probably refuse?
- (d) refuse categorically however plausible the tale?
- (e) inform the authorities?

How well do you travel?

When you embark on a simple journey is it a worry or a routine? Do you think of your passport as a ticket to disaster or paradise? Do this fun quiz and find out how you rate as a traveller

6. You are in a poolside bar relaxing when a person of the opposite sex, who has been eyeing you across the room, starts to close in. Do you:

- (a) suddenly remember your partner back home?
- (b) panic. You've heard stories about foreigners?
- (c) switch the autopilot to flirt?
- (d) relax and take it one pizza colada at a time?

7. You are going with a friend on a touring holiday. Do you:

- (a) plan every day's journey in detail?
- (b) have a rough travel plan?
- (c) leave it all open to see what each day brings?
- (d) let your friend decide?

8. Do you pack:

- (a) only what you can take in a backpack?
- (b) the smallest suitcase you possibly can?
- (c) a little more than you need?
- (d) a lot more than you need?
- (e) enough for an army?

14. When you are travelling, what do you feel like a week before take-off:

- (a) that you will never get everything done?
- (b) a bit excited?
- (c) a bit anxious?
- (d) a bit mixed up?
- (e) you can't wait. This is what life is really about?

15. When you come home do you feel:

- (a) glad to be back on familiar territory?
- (b) sorry it is over?
- (c) a bit of both?
- (d) flat as a pancake?
- (e) impatient. You can't wait to go again?

10. What do you do with your money when you travel:

- (a) use travellers' cheques, hotel safes and money belts?
- (b) carry as little cash as possible and rely on plastic?
- (c) carry cash but hide it in different places?
- (d) put it all in your wallet and hope for the best?



11. Do you think going it alone is:

- (a) a little scary?
- (b) extremely scary?
- (c) out of the question?
- (d) fraught with opportunities?
- (e) the only way to go?

1. 10 20 15 5 0
2. 15 10 5 0 0
3. 20 10 15 5 0
4. 0 10 5 20 15
5. 0 5 15 20 10
6. 0 5 10 0 0
7. 5 10 15 0 0
8. 20 15 10 5 0
9. 5 15 10 0 0
10. 5 15 10 0 0
11. 10 5 0 15 20
12. 20 10 15 5 0
13. 0 5 20 10 0
14. 10 15 0 5 20
15. 0 10 5 15 20

What your score means

0-90: You are to travel what a mouse is to a mousetrap. You hate all the things a good traveller thrives on — uncertainty, and the unexpected, even risks.

The best advice for you is to stay at home. Why should you be pushed into making your contribution to airport over-crowding in this restless age if you don't find it any fun? Resist the glossy brochures and enjoy life — your way.

And if your job demands you should be forever on the move, think seriously about whether it is really the job for you.

95 - 185: You are an average traveller. You enjoy it when things go your way. But hunger, heat, an over-active mosquito population, upset tummy and wet weather all make you wonder, if it is really worth it.

You would not take a job just because it involved travelling a lot, though it would not necessarily disqualify it, either. It would be just one more factor to weigh up.

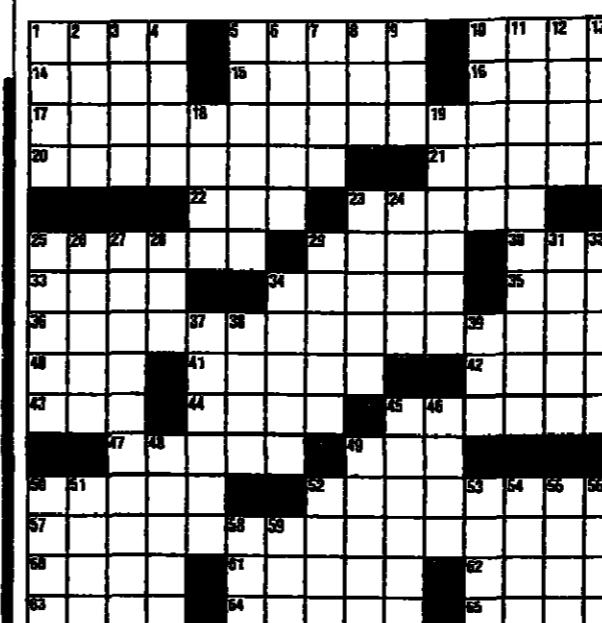
And you like your holiday travel to be done in as much comfort as you can afford, with some professional planning and booking beforehand, even if it is not the complete hand-holding courier package.

190-275: The real travellers fall into this category. You can make the best of a holiday package if getting along with the family and/or your economic circumstances mean you have to.

Your first choice is just to up and away as the fancy takes you. You are probably resourceful and self-reliant. You can certainly cope psychologically with anything that goes wrong and turn it from a disappointment to an adventure in your own mind.

Any job that threatened lots of travel would be promising to you. But there can be a danger in having the wanderlust. Just make sure you are not always so keen to be somewhere else, that you forget to enjoy where you are.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1. A light
5. Neckpiece
10. Middle gulf
14. Cruising
15. Circus figure
16. Sluggish
17. A founder of Dutch independence
20. Esme's creator
21. Painter Max
22. Set
23. Like a bad actor
25. In a pile
29. Festive occasion
30. Grenoble grain
33. Woody's son
34. Fleshy root
35. Edge
36. Way to Oz
40. Old French coin
41. Yell
42. Buhwer-Lytton heroine
43. Vessel: Abbr.
44. Transgresses
45. Unsettled
46. Type type
49. Health club
50. Long — the law
52. Sensualists
57. Eddie Cantor hit of 1926
60. Curse
61. Out of funds
62. Kazan
63. Aardvark's diet
64. Prepared fish
65. Exude

subjects
3. Dickens girl
4. Noted surrealist
5. Put on Broadway
6. Desert
7. Cupid
8. Ump's kin
9. Partner of to
10. False or fire
11. Brawl
12. Ova
13. Red denial
18. "Picnic" author
19. Comment
23. Wont
24. Templeton
25. Helen or Roland
26. Build
27. Fascination
28. Ward healer
29. Mystic teachers
31. Jungle vine
32. West German

port
34. Steak choice
37. Harden
38. Joy
39. Estuary
45. Added flavors
46. Cab
48. Earring sites
49. "Thus — Zarathustra"
50. Swedish rock group
51. Taturn's dad
52. North Carolina college
53. Over, to Fritz
54. Disturb
55. Spooky-sounding lake
56. Mt. Rushmore site
58. Tide type
59. Family member, briefly

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
CABOT FRA MAINE
OPERA OOM ELLEN
PENOBSCOT RAKIES
EST LAUD DINAR
I ONS BET
ACADIA LOBSTERS
CHILD TAUT OKIE
TIDE CHINS LIND
UNES HARD MANGE
PORTLAND BANGOR
ERE TOSS
ESSAY COTS ALB
ALIAS BARRABOR
WINCE ASS GAUGE
LAGOS NEO ENTIER

THE WIZARD OF ID



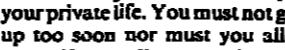
By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



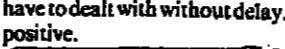
YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You should work hard but do not allow work to encroach upon your private life. You must not give up too soon nor must you allow yourself to be discouraged. Try to exercise just a little more self-control. Be positive.



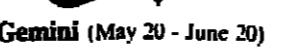
Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You will be able to make good progress with a matter that has been stagnating of late. You should try to avoid jumping to conclusions. A personal matter will have to deal with without delay. Be positive.



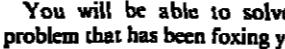
Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You will be able to solve a problem that has been foxing you. Make sure you are sure, do not rely on guesswork. You will know just how to deal with a rather intransigent person. Be considerate.



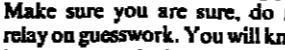
Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You will tend to get tired rather easily so try to conserve your energies. Do all that has to be done to maintain harmony with your partner. Act quickly if you do not want to lose a good opportunity. Be moderate.



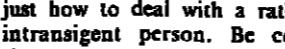
Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
You will succeed in doing something that you have not been able to do therefore. You should make sure you get enough exercise. Avoid driving without care and attention. Be generous.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
You will find it easier to make ends meet but only if you resist a certain temptation to be extravagant. Your personal situation will take a turn for the better. Avoid doing anything that would constitute a health risk.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
Not everything will be to your liking but nonetheless you will be able to make the most of things. You should not be in too much of a hurry but that does not mean you should hesitate. A friend will appreciate your moral support.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You will be able to do something that you have been unable to do before. You should make sure you do not eat too many sweet things and that you get enough vitamins.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Today all will be well but only if you keep your mind on the job in hand. You should not try to do things by force nor should you do things in too great a rush. If you keep calm and let others have their say you will be well rewarded.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You will find the solution to a problem that has been bothering you. You will tend to get tired rather easily so try to conserve your energies. Persuasion and charm will get you much further than a show of force.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Today it is even more important not to allow yourself to be distracted. You should also persevere with what you are doing. You will have something to be pleased about, but no smugness. Be cordial.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
You should try to be somewhat more careful about your expenditure. Your intuitions are liable to lead you astray so do not rely on them. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be cordial.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

BRIDGE BY ROTE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 10 9

▼ K J 6

♦ A 9 3

♦ 9 8 6 4

* Q 7 2

WEST

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Paris oil strike being studied, says Elf Aquitaine

PARIS, Aug 30, (Reuters): A surprise oil strike in a Paris suburb is being studied for its potential as a producing field. Elf Aquitaine, France's biggest oil company, said today.

Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine said it made the discovery late last week 2,000 metres (6,500 feet) beneath the grimy industrial suburb of Ivry, south of Paris.

A company spokesman said the firm may continue prospecting around the Orly and Roissy airports and believes oil reserves lie under the Champs Elysees in central Paris.

"But we don't plan to install derricks in the City Centre," he added.

"It is impossible to estimate our chances of success yet," he said. "But last week's find has given us serious encouragement."

In Ivry, a team of 30 men has drilled day and night for the past three weeks in search of oil.

Forced to avoid a labyrinth of underground tunnels under the capital, Elf is drilling on a slant and has so far invested 10 million francs (\$1.7 million) on the site.

Potential

"We have to dig another 10 days to check the economic potential of the well," the spokesman said.

Elf found about four cubic metres (140 cubic feet) of a mixture of oil and water and now wants to determine the percentage of water mixed with crude at Ivry.

Elf began making seismic tests for oil around Paris in 1986.

The whole of what is known as the Paris basin — west to the Normandy coast and east to the Vosges mountains — last year produced 1.9 million tonnes, or 60 per cent of total French production, and is believed to contain up to 40 million tonnes of reserves.

Nigeria rejects 100pc hike in foreign air fares

LAGOS, Aug 30, (Reuters): Nigeria has rejected a request by foreign airlines for a 100 per cent fare hike to offset the dwindling value of the naira currency, newspapers reported today.

But a spokesman for the 23 airlines was optimistic after talks with Aviation Minister Anthony Okpere that the military government would approve an increase soon.

"I am confident that the minister is doing something about our request," Yemane Bisrat of Ethiopian Airlines, the current chairman of the board of airline representatives in Lagos told Reuters today.

Foreign airlines and Nigeria Airways are obliged by the government to sell tickets in naira at approved tariffs.

Value

With the value of the naira sunk by between 65 and 80 per cent since 1986 air travel from Nigeria — in hard currency terms — is among the cheapest in the world.

A Nigerian passenger can buy a return ticket to London, the busiest route, for less than half of the sterling fare.

But airlines complain that aviation fuel and telecommunications have rocketed in price and they face fixed hard currency costs as well.

"The low naira dilutes our revenue tremendously," Bisrat said.

So far only Pan Am has pulled out of Lagos because of declining earnings.

Travellers to Europe during the busy summer period report that naira ticket-holders face problems getting confirmed seats as airlines give preference until the last minute to passengers who paid with hard currency.

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Traffic growth slumps

Major US airlines plan to increase fares

NEW YORK, Aug 30: The major US airlines are making their most determined effort since deregulation to drive fares up — and keep them there, reports the Wall Street Journal.

The trend started this spring when airlines eliminated most discount fares that business fliers use. Then the airlines kept prices up in the summer, even though traffic growth had slumped badly. And last week, they said discount fares will rise as much as \$10 each way in the fall — when prices traditionally dip or stabilize.

"Something significant is going on in the industry," says Paul Karos, an analyst with First Boston Corp. "The airlines are just getting incredibly tougher about pricing."

All of which is horrible news for travellers, who are forced to pay some of the highest fares in years. The cheapest non-stop, round-trip fare between New York and Los Angeles — the benchmark discount fare — is now \$308; it was \$178 last year. Overall, fares are about 10 per cent higher so far this year compared with last year, and have steadily increased over the past 14 months.

Such increases only seem to confirm consumer activists' worst fears that the airline mergers of a few years ago cut competition far too much.

"The industry is moving dangerously close to an oligopoly," says Ed Perkins, editor of Con-

sumer Reports Travel Letter. In cities such as St. Louis and Minneapolis, one airline controls more than 75 per cent of the flights. "The government," he adds, "never should have approved those mergers."

Airlines admit to being more cautious about discounting. But they insist mergers aren't the cause; they're just wiser about pricing.

Previously, most carriers thought they needed to keep traffic up to make money, so they kept prices down. But the low fares often didn't attract enough passengers to justify the cuts. So airlines have now decided it's better to fly fewer passengers at higher rates.

"I just have this feeling that this year there will finally be some price stability," says Thomas Volz, vice-president of marketing for Braniff Inc.

Many analysts say the turning point came in March. Until then, Continental Airlines and Eastern Airlines — both units of Texas Air Corp. — had steadfastly refused to match other carriers' attempts to raise fares, which kept down industry prices. In March, they went along with a major price increase.

"They began to see they could control the industry's fare levels if they dropped prices, since

What's more, the trend toward higher prices could reverse itself; a recession could force airlines to drop fares, or a financially troubled carrier might shift strategy and slash fares in desperation.

But industry executives and analysts are increasingly confident that higher fares are here to stay. They note that even the industry's few recent fare cuts have been increasingly tailored to specific markets and for limited time periods. For instance, it's already too late to take advantage of Eastern's recently announced fare reductions from the Northeast to Florida; tickets had to be purchased between Aug 15 and Aug 26.

"I just have this feeling that this year there will finally be some price stability," says Thomas Volz, vice-president of marketing for Braniff Inc.

Many analysts say the turning point came in March. Until then, Continental Airlines and Eastern Airlines — both units of Texas Air Corp. — had steadfastly refused to match other carriers' attempts to raise fares, which kept down industry prices. In March, they went along with a major price increase.

"They began to see they could control the industry's fare levels if they dropped prices, since

they matched them, but not market share," says Karos of First Boston.

The March increases affected primarily business travellers; full coach fares rose 12 per cent to 18 per cent. Moreover, new restrictions were placed on a type of discount fare that many business fliers used. The restriction forced thousands of business fliers to pay dramatically higher prices.

Soon afterward, the industry also raised more fares in the summer. Those increases normally wouldn't have been surprising, since they came just before the peak summer months.

Costs

But the industry's domestic traffic rose only 1.8 per cent in the first seven months of the year — the slowest increase for that period in seven years. By raising fares, airlines were signalling a major shift in pricing strategy. And so far, the change has worked; several carriers have reported record profits so far this year.

"You stopped bearing airline executives talk so much about filling up their planes," says David Sylvester, an analyst with Kidder, Peabody & Co. "They talk more about better service and higher fares."

John Zeeman, executive vice-president of marketing for United Airlines, certainly talks about it. "If I could maximize revenue on United's flights with higher fares and lower volumes, I'd probably do that," he says.

"You wind up with lower costs and you handle fewer people. And you get better service because the airplanes aren't as crowded."

But now the airlines are putting their pricing power to a new test. Lead by Northwest Airlines beginning Thursday — just when air traffic usually slows.

Airlines say they have lessened the risk by focusing increases on business fliers, who often must fly at any price. Unrestricted discount fares that many business fliers use will go up \$2 to \$10.

American says that will probably affect 20 per cent of its passengers. MaxSavers will also rise \$8 to \$10 each way on trips longer than 1,250 miles (2,000 kilometres). But American says that covers only 5 per cent of its customers.

Some analysts aren't sure that all of the price increases this fall will hold. But they say fares would probably only drop back to the summer's level — which would still be remarkably higher for the fall season. They also note that airlines have been cutting service in certain cities; Continental, for example, plans to reduce the number of its flights out of Denver 20 per cent.

Such moves further limit the chances of any fare wars in those cities; seat supply is reduced, which means there's less need to lower fares. "At this rate," says Perkins, the editor of Consumer Reports Travel Letter, "there may not be any bargains left."

World Business Summary

War risk premiums for Gulf fall sharply

LONDON, Aug 30, (UPI): War risk premiums for the Arabian Gulf area have fallen sharply over the past few weeks and could drop further if the Iran-Iraq ceasefire of Aug 20 continues to hold, according to London insurance brokers and underwriters yesterday. "There will be pressure for lower rates the longer the ceasefire holds," one London broker said. But an underwriter cautioned it would be at least two or three months before any notable reduction is seen. "The ceasefire has only been going a short while and the market is taking a realistic approach," he said. Most notable among recent hull war risk insurance reduction is that Kuwait is no longer considered a high risk area for vessels trading to and from its ports, insurers said. Kuwait Gulf sea transport business bore the brunt of attacks at the height of the eight-year war, but the current absence of conflict has seen the premium drop sharply in the past few days to figure currently about 0.25 percent of the value of the ship's hull. This compared with 0.75 percent of the value prevailing before the Aug 20 ceasefire date was announced on Aug 8, insurers said. Kuwait is now quoted in line with other west coast Gulf ports, which have also been lowered from the 0.375 per cent that was indicated before the ceasefire moves, insurers said.

Rates for east coast ports in the Gulf such as Bandar Abbas were said to be slightly less than 0.25 per cent. But insurers said northern Iranian ports and oil terminals in the Gulf such as Kharg Island were still operated on a "hired cover" basis where charterers have to apply for a quotation for each individual trip, insurers said. One underwriter estimated that the going insurance rate was around two per cent of the hull value for this business.

Shippers relax as peace settles on Gulf

DUBAI, Aug 30, (Reuters): The Gulf's merchant shippers, whose vessels have been frequent targets for Iran and Iraq, said today they were learning to relax despite poor progress of the Geneva peace talks. "Iran is on its best behaviour," one told Reuters. "Its gunboats have stopped challenging ships and are staying right out of sight." Japanese shippers have eased a rule that vessels transit the Strait of Hormuz in groups, said captain Y. Watanabe of the Japanese Shippers' Association. "Ships feel safer travelling together," he said. "But now things are quiet, it seems less important." Watanabe said about 30 Japanese ships, mainly tankers, enter the Gulf every day. Six million barrels per day (BPD), about a third of the oil output from it, is passed through the Gulf with about two million BPD of it bound for Japan, the biggest single customer. Watanabe said that from Thursday Japanese tankers would begin loading Iranian oil at Sirti terminal inside the Gulf instead of at Larak in the Strait of Hormuz. "Iran sold its oil from Larak during the war because foreign ships were frightened to enter the Gulf," a shipper said. "For the moment anyway, that has changed." Iraqi jets trying to destroy Iran's oil exports attacked 30 ships this year and killed at least 90 sailors. Iraq's last raid was on July 7. Iran's last attack was a minor gunboat raid on Aug 5 on the 284,502-tonne tanker Berge Lord.

UAE port traffic up

DUBAI, Aug 30, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates' Port Rashid, the Gulf's main container port, today reported freight traffic up by six per cent in the first half of 1988. The general manager of the Dubai port John Arundell said business could grow by more than 10 per cent if the Iran-Iraq war ended with a durable peace. "We had been banking on 10 per cent growth over the whole year but it could be more than that if peace is agreed." He said the entrepot port handled 4.32 million tonnes of mostly container cargo in the first six months of 1988, compared with 4.07 million tonnes in the same period last year. Arundell said Port Rashid, 120 miles across the Gulf from Iran's main southern port of Bandar Abbas, was well placed to handle any growth in Iranian imports, particularly building materials. Port Rashid handled a record 523,145 standard containers in 1987. This was 36.5 per cent more than in 1986 and put it among the world's top 25 container ports. Shippers said Iran was likely to rely heavily on Port Rashid and other UAE ports because its own container port at Bandar Abbas was less efficient. Traders expected a steady increase in Iran's imports from Dubai if the Gulf war ended, but they saw no sign of it yet. "Iran already imports a lot through Dubai and could not afford suddenly to buy more even if the peace talks (with Iraq in Geneva) are successful," a Dubai-based Iranian trader said. Iran is Dubai's main re-export market — in 1987 it re-exported Dh 1.3 million (\$354 million) worth of mainly consumer goods, food and machinery.

Petroleum industry to continue its internationalisation drive

CARACAS, Aug 30, (OPECNA): The Venezuelan petroleum industry must continue its internationalisation programme as it cannot risk losing markets for its crude, said Remigio Fernandez, president of Interesa, the overseas investment subsidiary of Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), the state oil company. He noted that one of the policy objectives of the programme, under which Venezuelan crude was being processed in overseas refineries through joint venture arrangements, was to secure the marketing of the country's oil. He described as "very valuable" the experience obtained by PDVSA through the setting up of joint ventures with companies in the United States, West Germany and Sweden to refine and market Venezuelan crude. Currently, more than 450,000 B/D of Venezuelan oil was being processed in the three countries, he added.

He said that among OPEC countries, Venezuela was a pioneer in the setting up of joint ventures in overseas downstream activities, noting that other OPEC countries had followed similar policies. He said PDVSA was basing its overseas ventures on policy holding with its foreign partners, in contrast to purchase of stocks in those companies. "This policy aimed at obtaining greater vertical integration of operations in the industry in order to strengthen negotiating powers," he said.

Solar village supplies power to Saudi central region

RIYADH, Aug 30, (OPECNA): A solar village located near here has been providing electricity at a monthly rate of between 20,000 and 45,000 kilowatts to the central region of Saudi Arabia, according to an official of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KAACST). The solar electricity being developed by KAACST, were being supplied to greenhouses, laboratories of Saudi universities and research projects, he said. He said that during the year ending in September 1986, KAACST conducted about 40 research programmes, including sweet water fish breeding, satellite observation and wind power. The official said that the institute also contributed by applying technological sciences to the development programmes of the government.

Under grants totalling more than \$6.80 million made available during the year, KAACST launched research programmes in agricultural, engineering, basic and applied sciences, medicine, general health, and pollution and environmental protection.

In order to improve scientific awareness, KAACST recently published the first issue of its science magazine.

It also maintained international co-operation under agreements with similar institutes in the United States, China, Canada, South Korea, West Germany and France, the official said.

Norway likely to sell some of its stakes in North Sea fields

OSLO, Aug 30, (Reuters): Norway is re-examining its cornerstone oil industry where earnings are falling and financial risks are getting bigger.

The minority Labour government says it might sell some of its stakes in its North Sea fields and a senior official has publicly questioned the wisdom of having three major oil firms.

"Leisure times mean that we are having to rethink fundamental and long-standing aspects of the industry," said one government official, who asked not to be identified.

"A vigorous debate about how we should earn money and cut risks is emerging," he added.

The main question for Norway, Western Europe's biggest oil producer after Britain, involves a growing conflict between political desirability and economic necessity, oil analysts say.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said at a major oil industry trade fair in Stavanger in late August that the government was studying possible sales of its oilfield stakes.

"Concern that such direct participation represents too great a risk for society has recently prompted interest in the potential sale of state shares," she said.

Oil industry analysts said the fact that she made her remarks before an audience that included representatives of foreign oil companies was significant.

Another cornerstone of Norwegian policy has been the existence of a third Norwegian oil company, Saga Petroleum A/S.

"Leisure times mean that we are having to rethink fundamental and long-standing aspects of the industry," said one government official, who asked not to be identified.

Despite missing the target, the total number of visitors to Greece in 1988 is predicted to rise by about 5.3 per cent, the report said.

The slump in tourism was partly attributed to the July 11 terrorist attack aboard the City

Approximately 8,004,000 tourists were recorded last year. Tourism officials now say they expect some 8,428,000 arrivals in 1988.

A total of 8 million tourists visited the country in 1987, although it is highly unlikely that state and Statoil participation would be below 51 percent on any licence, Oil Ministry sources said.

Norway gets about a third of its export earnings from oil and gas, and was hard hit when prices collapsed in 1986 in an oversupplied world market.

Despite missing the target, the total number of visitors to Greece in 1988 is predicted to rise by about 5.3 per cent, the report said.

Tourism is Greece's biggest

US index of leading indicators drops 0.8pc

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (Reuters): The government's index of leading indicators, a bellwether of future US economic activity, tumbled 0.8 per cent in July, the Commerce Department reported today.

The decline was a sign that efforts by the Federal Reserve Board to cool economic growth in order to dampen inflation may be working.

The decline was in line with analysts' expectations as

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1988

LONDON
(ADDED STOCKS)

INI

182/0

INCHCAPE

204/0

JAGUAR

240/0

LAND SECS

536.0

NAME

LAST

LAPORE

398.0

NAME

CLOSE

OPEN

BR ARROW

104/0

105/0

HIGGS HIL

362/0

360/0

SCOT HERI

191/0

190/0

SCOT I.T.

125/0

123/0

SCOT M&T

125/0

126/0

SCOT M&T

96/0

96/0

SCOT M&T

6/0

6/0

SCOT NAT C

26/0

26/0

SCOT NAT I

91/4

91/4

SCOT NAT W

6/0

6/0

SCOT NAT W

100/0

100/0

SECS T&T

100/0

100/0

SCOT M&T

100/0

100/0

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1988

International Bond Markets

London — The Japan Development Bank is issuing a 200 min dir eurobond due October 20, 1993 paying 9-6/8 pct and priced at 101-1/8 pct, lead manager Bank of Tokyo Capital Markets Ltd said.
 London — Dai-Ichi Kangyo (Bank of Tokyo) Ltd launched a 150 min dir eurobond paying 9-5/8 pct and priced at 101-3/4 pct, bookrunner and joint-lead manager Shearson Lehman Hutton International said. (RTYE 0854)
 London — Nippon Credit Bank Ltd is issuing a five-year 150 min dir eurobond paying 9-3/4 pct and priced at 101-5/8 pct, lead manager Nippon Credit International Ltd said. (RTKA 0747)
 Frankfurt — CS Finance Co Bv, Amsterdam, a wholly-owned unit of Commerzbank AG, is issuing a 300 min mark five-year Eurobond, the bank said as sole lead manager. (RTXG 0842)
 London — The coupons on two five-year warrant bond issues — a 50 min dir deal for Yuasa Shoji Co Ltd and one of the same size for Howa Machinery Ltd — were indicated at 5-1/4 pct, the highest level so far this year, lead manager for both bonds, Nomura International Ltd said. (RTZE 1026, RTZJ 1028)
 Zurich — Japan's Toyama Chemical Co Ltd is issuing 100 min Swiss Francs five-year notes with equity warrants, lead manager Credit Suisse said. (RTWT 0731)

Interbank Rates

	CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	12-1/8 11-7/8	12-1/8 12	12-5/16 13/16
FRT	3.50/75	4.90/5.00	5.20/50
PAR	7-7/16 9/16	7-1/2 5/8	7-13/16 15/16
ZUR	1-5/8 1-7/8	3-1/4 3-1/2	3-1/2 3-3/4
BRK	7.15	7-1/16 1/8	7-7/16 1/2
ROK	10-10 1/2	10-5/8 11-1/8	11-1/8 11-5/8
AMS	5-3/8 5-1/2	5-7/16 5-9/16	5-5/8 5-3/4
TKR	3.8750 9575	4.1875 2500	4.0625 1250
ECU	6.87 7.12	7.37 7.50	7.68 7.81

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	6-1/16	6-3/8
3 months	6-1/8	6-7/16
6 months	6-3/16	6-1/2
1 year	6-3/16	6-9/16

PRIMATES

PR CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GL INDIA	64.75	54.50	55.25	MTCO	570	570	572.50
230	282	232.50	GRASIM	102	102.50	103	MOCIL	535	535	560
163.75	162.50	162.50	GSFC	146	145	145	OKAYA	23	23	24
257.50	257.50	257.50	KIND LEVER	68	67	67.50	PEICO	28	27	28
230	230	216.50	KINDALCO	96	95.50	96	PEIFER	55	54.50	55
103	101	103.50	HINDCO	79	78	80	PRE-AUTO	29	29.50	28.50
88.50	90	91	HINDMOT	25.50	25.50	26.50	RAYMOND	53	52.50	54
594.68	585.07	585.07	IND ORG	27.50	27.50	29.50	RELIANCE	191	194	193.50
932.50	930.50	937.50	INDRAYON	65.50	64.75	64.25	SIEMENS	74	74.50	76
220	223	225	INDROL	146.25	145	147.50	SPIC	46	47	44.75
37.50	37	37	ITC	39	38	39	STDMILLS	242.50	257.50	240
50	49	50	JSYNT	66.75	67	66.50	TATA PWR	217.50	215	217.50
116.25	116.25	115	L AND T	99.50	100	102	TATACHEM	73	72.50	73
17	17	17	MAHINDRA	58	57	57.50	TELECO	661.35	665	661.25
75	74.50	76	MASTERSHR	10.25	10.12	10.25	TISCO	825.75	825	830
27.50	27.50	27.50	MATHER PL	62.50	61	62	VOLTA	340	332.50	340

THAILAND

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	MITSUB CR	1100	1100	MITSUB EL	910	907	MITSUB EST	2520	2550
AKAI	2960	2960	2960	MITSUB HVY	865	868	MITSUB CO	850	863	MITSUB KOSH	1870	1870
AKAI GLC	1900	1900	1900	MITSUMI EL	1050	1070	MITSUMI	1050	1070	MITSUMI	1070	1070
BANK TOKYO	1560	1540	1540	MICHICON	1250	1300	MICHICON	790	790	MICHI CO	1760	1750
CANON	1300	1270	1270	MIKO SEC	1925	1925	MIKO SEC	1925	1925	MIP ELEC	2080	2060
CASIO COMP	1380	1400	1400	MIP KOKKAN	649	654	MIP KOKKAN	649	654	MIP OIL	1100	1080
CHUGAI PHM	1580	1600	1600	MIP STEEL	671	685	MIP STEEL	671	685	MIP STEEL	2900	2900
CITIZEN W	831	792	792	MIP TUSEN	700	699	MIP TUSEN	700	699	MISUMI	1130	1130
D-ICHI KAN	2940	2900	2900	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP IK	788	755	755	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP PT	2610	2560	2560	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP SC	1080	1050	1050	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP TO	824	610	610	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAICEL	930	827	827	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAIWA H	1970	1970	1970	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAIWA SEC	2280	2280	2280	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAIWA MFG	920	920	920	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAISEI	1980	1970	1970	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP IK	788	755	755	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP PT	2610	2560	2560	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP SC	1080	1050	1050	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP TO	824	610	610	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAICEL	930	827	827	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAIWA H	1970	1970	1970	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAIWA SEC	2280	2280	2280	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAIWA MFG	920	920	920	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAISEI	1980	1970	1970	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP IK	788	755	755	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP PT	2610	2560	2560	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP SC	1080	1050	1050	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAI NIP TO	824	610	610	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130	MISUMI	1130	1130
DAICEL	930	827	82									

BUSINESS

Gold gains

Dollar steadies, shares turn mixed

LONDON, Aug 30. (Reuter): The dollar was steady but world share market lacked direction in thin business today with investors worried that interest rates might go higher.

Concern about inflation led six European central banks to raise interest rates last week and some analysts say the US Federal Reserve might have to raise its discount rate again soon.

The dollar traded in a narrow range in Europe, closing in London at 1.8680 West German marks and 134.45 Japanese yen compared with 1.8585 and 133.85 at Friday's close.

British financial markets were closed for a bank holiday yesterday when the dollar rebounded somewhat after heavy central bank intervention last week aimed at curbing its recent rise.

Nervous

Investors were nervous about buying dollars and trade was sparse on currency markets, dealers said.

West Germany's Bundesbank intervened today at the midday mark fixing in Frankfurt, selling \$7.6 million compared with \$4.9 million yesterday. In Milan, the Bank of Italy sold around \$14.5 million at the fix there.

Currency dealers were starting to focus on monthly US employment figures for August due out on Friday. A strong report could prompt the Fed to tighten credit again, while a less-than-robust one could mean the Fed will pause for now.

US economists expect non-farm payroll jobs to have gone up by 225,000 in August, after a rise

of 283,000 in July. More jobs mean the economy could be overheating and that inflation might be on the rise.

The US government's index of leading economic indicators, a bellwether of future US economic activity, fell 0.8 per cent in July, according to figures released today.

Analysts said the decline indicated efforts by the Federal Reserve to cool economic growth in order to dampen inflation may be working. The statistics, however, were much in line with what the markets had expected.

In New York, the Dow Jones Industrial was down 4.09 points at midday to 2,037.34 as investors sold shares to cash in on profits, dealers said. The Dow had risen 24 points yesterday.

French and West German share markets were higher while stocks slipped in Madrid and Milan.

Earlier in Tokyo's Nikkei average gained 132.55 points to 27,511.65.

In London, gold was closed at \$427.75 an ounce, up from a session low of around \$426 but well down from the morning setting of \$429.40. It had closed on Friday at \$431.75.

Speculation

There is strong speculation that US interest rates are being held down artificially because a rise during an election campaign could be politically damaging for the Republicans, dealers said. A sharp rise in US rates would hurt sentiment on Wall Street and the British stock market, they added.

Although sharply lower, the London market saw little heavy selling today, but stores group Sears was active and shed 7p to 134 as investors sold after the recent speculative gain.

payments gap.

"Sterling's performance is bound to reflect equities in the near-term but it's going to take a lot more than a small one-day recovery in the currency to lift this market out of the doldrums," one equity said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was 19.2 points lower at 1,751.5 after a low of 1,745.2 at 1018 GMT.

The main feature was again the low volume with only 255 million shares changing hands by 1400 GMT. "With volume this low, the only way the market can go is sideways or down," a trader said.

"I can't see any reason why it should pick up unless of course Wall Street stages a surprise rally."

With the bleak outlook on the domestic economy, traders see the New York market having a major influence on British shares for some time to come. However, the US market is not expected to do anything spectacular until the US elections are out of the way and US interest rates more closely reflect US economic trends.

Impact

The latest Confederation of British Industry survey had little impact on the market, although it indicated that Britain was starting to feel the effect of sterling's higher level on overseas sales. It said however, that as far as manufacturing industry is concerned, inflationary fears are exaggerated.

Among big exporters, ICI added 3p to 995 on the back of good demand for its ADRS in the US yesterday while BAT will rise 4p to 441 amid hopes that its long and expensive battle to gain control of US insurance group Farmers may be nearing an end. The \$5.2 billion bid is now agreed but is still subject to shareholder and regulatory approval.

Trend

National Westminster stood out with a 3p rise to 528 against the general trend. Analysts said the rise mainly reflected a bounce after recent overselling but thought the sector as a whole was in for a quiet time in the foreseeable future.

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Other consumer stocks suffered with the building materials and leisure sectors falling 2.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively on higher mortgages and fears of lower consumer spending.

Blue Circle shed 11p to 417 and plasterboard maker BPB 12p to 261 while hotel and casino group Ladbroke slipped 13p to 437.

Properties were hit by the almost certain further rise in mortgage rates after last week's one point rise in base rates to 12 per cent. MEPC was 7p lower at 511.

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ble future. Midland lost 2p to 395 but Barclays held steady at 395.

Hotel and drinks Grand Metropolitan shed 7p to 493 after raising its stake in bid target Irish Distillers to 6.05 per cent from 5.06 per cent. The Irish industry minister plans to refer the 253 million Irish pound bid to the Irish Fair Trade Commission.

The market is awaiting an announcement from French drinks group Pernod on talks held with Irish Distillers, 3p up 346, amid speculation that it may emerge as a white knight.

Williams Holdings lost 11p to 272 after announcing a £34.5 million agreed purchase of Smallbone and despite first-half pre-tax profits towards the higher end of forecasts at £52.73 million, Smallbone surged 169p to 487.

Today saw the start of the last week of a three-week account and while the FTSE index appears to have found some stability around 1,750, analysts believe it is likely to drift further ahead of British economic statistics for August.

Andrew Smith, economist at brokers CL-Alexanders Laing and Cruckshank, in common with many other market observers reckoned that 1,700 is the next major resistance level for the FTSE 100 index.

The index closed 15.9 points off at 1,754.8 along with the slightly weaker performance on Wall Street. A modest 317 million leading shares were traded today with retail interest minimal.

Cypriots wonder if economic miracle can benefit all

NICOSIA, Aug 30. (Reuter): South of the Green line dividing Nicosia, glass-sided office towers, shopping centres and apartment blocks are springing up.

On the other side of the United Nations-patrolled buffer zone, the capital is shabbier and visibly less prosperous.

The city reflects the economic Gulf between Turkish-Cypriot North Cyprus and Greek-Cypriot South as the two sides prepare for talks in September on reunifying the Mediterranean island.

Any successful solution seems to hinge on the South's "economic miracle" working its way North.

Income

Economists estimate Turkish-Cypriot per capita income in the breakaway state at about a third of the South's \$6,800.

"Turkish Cypriots have shown good growth rates in the last two years due to favourable external factors. But their market is too small and their economic policies are constraining them," one Greek-Cypriot economist said.

"If the favourable climate is maintained the potential exists for further development. But they are unlikely to close the gap with the South is expanding rapidly," he added.

The Turkish-Cypriot economy, in which the Turkish lira is used, struggles with high inflation imported from Turkey and a shortage of foreign exchange. Turkey keeps it afloat with aid.

Annual inflation in the North is running at around 75 per cent compared with 3.4 per cent in the South, the economist said. He said investments in the North tended to be speculative and not conducive to long-term development.

Profits plunge to £22m

Gloomy outlook for Jaguar

LONDON, Aug 30: Plunging profits at Jaguar, the luxury carmaker, have brought a warning from Sir John Egan, the chairman, that the outlook for the rest of this year and the beginning of next is gloomy, and that profitability for 1988 will be significantly down on 1987.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 more than halved, to £22.5 million, compared with £45.7 million in the first half of 1987 last year. Turnover was up 14 per cent, to £553.5 million. Unit costs traded faster. The dividend was maintained at 3.7p net.

Results

The group said the weakness of the US dollar was the chief culprit for the poor results, saying that had it not been for adverse exchange rates profits would have been £30 million higher.

"The market is in a waiting vein, rather than taking any position one way or the other," Hinton said. "It's just waiting for news."

"We will be hard-pressed to

match last year's sales of just under 23,000 in North America," Sir John said.

"Because of the competition in luxury cars, we cannot put up our prices. Our European competitors tried to put up their prices, but they have not stuck, leading to discounting."

"The North American market is still sluggish, and without a

recovery there, there is little potential for the recovery of the group," he added.

Sales outside North America, which accounted for 57 per cent of total volume, were much more buoyant. British sales were up 29 per cent, and there was a 44 per cent rise in continental Europe. Sir John said that to improve profitability a tough cost cutting programme would be imposed, but added that there would be no redundancies. "When people leave, we will not replace them," he said, "and we will allow natural wastage to lead to improvements in productivity."

The share price remained very weak on Friday, losing 1.2p to close at 252p, and speculation continued that Jaguar is likely to be bid for when the Government relinquishes its golden share in 1990.

Analysts at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, said: "The shares are grossly over-valued on the basis of profits to be earned this year and next." Sir John said that he had not received any bid approaches, nor would he welcome any.

returned to the market and offset early losses.

ZURICH: The stable dollar and Wall Street's gains encouraged some market players and the market closed slightly firmer. The All-Share Swiss index gained 2.5 to 888.6.

PARIS: Prices were firm in quiet trade, holding on to early gains on bargain-hunting after recent losses.

NEW YORK: Stocks turned lower as traders took profits on Monday and gains especially among blue chips. The Dow dropped five to 2,036.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Aug 30, (Reuters): The share market turned around from its downward drift to close higher but trading remained thin and choppy. The All Ordinaries index rose 10.0 to 1,579.1.

TOKYO: Prices closed higher with a late afternoon rally bringing the market out of its lows. The Nikkei index rose 132.55 to 27,511.65.

HONG KONG: Prices closed sharply lower after lacklustre

Call to set up special department to handle NRI investment

NEW DELHI, Aug 30, (KUNA): Non-resident Indians (NRIs), willing to invest in export oriented industries, have suggested to the government that a separate department should be set up to handle all issues relating to NRI investment.

The matter will come up for discussion at the first meeting of the committee of Non-resident Indians for promotion of exports on September 9. It has been suggested that the government should bring about an efficient institutionalised system for the dissemination of trade related information.

G.T. Vachani, chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, in a communication to Indian Commerce Ministry has called for setting up of organisation to handle export promotional work in an enterprise like Hong Kong.

He is of the view that more attention should be paid to finish and package of the products of exports. He said there is an immense scope for two-way trade between India and Hong Kong particularly in electronic industry.

For agricultural commodities and beverages, the journal predicted a firming up of prices in the coming months.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 29/8/88

B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.
6	Tropical Queen	ISA	2441860
8	Sham	ISA	2441860
9	Barge Maryam	G. Star	4845501
10	Jolly Smaraldo	GH & Q	4747815
12	Mendam	Barwil	4842988
14	Samuel Francis	GH&Q	4747815
17	White Jasmin	AI Bader	2433537
19	Kaneshima	AI Bader	2433537

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.
30/8	North Wind	B. Bajat	2440359
31/8	Dhaura Giri	T. Cont	2436920
31/8	Lanka Seaview	GH & Q	4747815
31/8	Alqairain	Livestock	2434177

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B No	Ships Name
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Deaf patient receives the world's most advanced 'bionic ear'

Freed from a world of silence

By Neville Hodgkinson

A WIDOW of 41 who sank into a deep depression after going totally deaf has had her life transformed by the world's most advanced 'bionic ear.'

Marylyn Graham, of Carlisle, Cumbria, has become the first patient in Britain to receive the £10,000 implant, developed in Australia.

A 22-channel array of electrodes on a tiny wire threaded into her inner ear makes contact with the auditory nerve endings there, bypassing cell damage responsible for the deafness.

The success of the operation, at Manchester Royal Infirmary, brings hope of freeing thousands from the world of silence imposed by the condition.

But it presents a new challenge to the UK National Health Service, which until now has refused to fund such procedures, including simpler devices developed in the UK, regarding them as experimental. Doctors involved have formed a pressure group to lobby the Health Department.

Last week Marylyn Graham described the dramatic moment when, a month after the operation, Sue Roberts, an Australian technician, prepared to switch on the device.

"The first words I heard were Sue saying, 'Righty ho, we are going to switch over now and see if Marylyn can hear people.' I just burst into tears. I told them I had heard every word, including her Australian twang. It was wonderful. Everything seemed to come through so loud and clear. One moment there was nothing, and the next there was an eruption



Marylyn Graham and her three-year-old grandson. She heard his voice for the first time.

of sound. I think we were all a bit surprised. Everyone's face was a picture. They all had

tears. Another joyful moment was when Graham, stone deaf for two years, returned home and heard Nicholas, her three-year-old grandson, speak for the first time. But he was shy at first.

"We were trying to get him to say something, and he wouldn't. His father said, 'Come on, Nicholas, what are you going to say to Nana?' Then I heard a little voice come through: 'Nothing.' I still found it wonderful."

Graham lost hearing in one ear three and a half years ago and was told at the time that the other was likely to follow. Hair-like structures in the inner ear, which convert sound impulses into electrical signals for transmission to the brain, were fitted to the implant.

These are a tiny microphone that fits behind the ear, a speech processor the size of a personal stereo-player to sort and simplify the signals from the microphone, and an induction coil to transmit the signals through the skin to the implant.

Although the equipment only processes speech, many other sounds are registered, but they come out in strange forms.

"When I flushed the toilet, it was absolutely thunderous, sounding like a lot of balloons

bursting."

"I can just about recognise a dog barking, but it comes across as a low rumble, then a gap, then another rumble. One sound that is much the same as before is sleep: I heard them on television in Emmerdale Farm."

He described the moment when Graham started to hear again as "pure Hollywood." He said: "It was one of the most striking moments in my sur-



Marylyn Graham: the sort of noise people regard as a nuisance were music to her ears after her operation

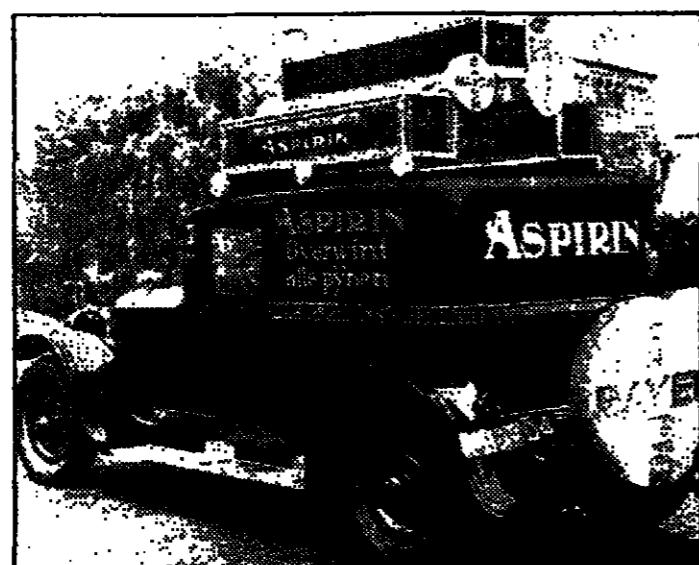
gical career, the one thing that has given me the greatest satisfaction."

"When we went outside, she couldn't believe the noise of the traffic. She stood for a few minutes by the road, just listening. The sort of noises that we would regard as a nuisance were music to her."

"We are desperately keen that the Health Department will eventually see its way to supporting this operation."

Take heart from the aspirin connection

FOR several years cholesterol was the bogeyman in heart disease and the best way to protect ourselves was to avoid fatty foods. Now it seems the answer is to chew an aspirin.



A remedy in any language: Bayer used this van to publicise aspirin in 1929.

Pharmacologists had discovered that rats given the poison warfarin bled to death, so by simple extrapolation, what was lethal in rats could prove to be a life-saver in humans.

The principle is similar to that of using aspirin and streptokinase, but it was given to patients who had already had a heart attack in the hope that it might prevent another.

However, experiments in which warfarin was tried showed it was not very effective and indeed had quite serious side-effects. By the late Sixties this approach to heart disease had fallen out of favour.

More recently their tactics have changed. With the development of new cholesterol-lowering drugs the

argument is that a large section of the population needs to take them for long periods to have any effect.

There is now a major drive to make the public worried about cholesterol levels that they go along to their doctors to be started on the new drugs.

This approach does work in some, but it is ruinously expensive. It can cost up to £1 million to save one life in this way, and, like any long-term drug regime, the drugs have serious side-effects.

The cholesterol faction is now an unholy alliance of health educators promoting the disproved virtues of a low-fat diet and drug companies trying to get as many people to take their new drugs for as long as possible.

The irony is that the blood-clotting faction was right all along, as last week's announcement confirmed. But when they originally tested their theory they used the wrong drug (warfarin) in the wrong people at the wrong time.

The point about the combination of aspirin and streptokinase is that it dissolves the clot in the artery as soon as it has formed, restoring the circulation and preventing death.

The lessons of this controversy now seem quite clear. Those who have had a relative suffer early from heart disease may well have a biochemical abnormality that results in high levels of cholesterol in the blood. For these people it is sensible to go to their doctor, have their cholesterol levels checked and consider starting cholesterol-lowering drugs which, at great expense and with some difficulty, might reduce their own risk of heart disease.

Everyone else should just forget about cholesterol and get on with their lives.

If, however, they are unfortunate enough to have a heart attack, recognised as a crushing pain in the chest, they should chew an aspirin, call the ambulance and make sure they get streptokinase once in hospital. Easy, really.

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ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

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SHAMIYA, opp. German embassy near Sheraton and Co-operative Society. Rooms available for couples, working ladies, bachelors or small families. Tel. Mohammad Arif, 4814087. (AT4-43690-3)

KUWAIT City, Fahad Al Salem Street. One room with water, electricity and kitchen facilities for a working lady to share with a family. Rent KD 70. Tel. 2412923. 9-11.30 am. (AT4-43708-2)

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NISSAN Stanza '84, fully automatic, silver colour, red inside, with 4 door, AC, hatchback. KD850. Tel. 4818594. (AT4-43693-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant GLS '87 model, automatic, 49000 kms with AC, fully maintained by AlMulla in showroom condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD80x34 by monthly instalments. Tel. Mr. Edward, 4735428, 4712572. (AT4-43670-3)

NISSAN Liberty '84, AC, automatic, white, hatchback with sunroof in excellent condition. KD200 for owner and KD 48x13 by monthly instalments. Tel. 2662546, 2623257 ext. 41 during office hours. (AT4-43678-3)

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MITSUBISHI Lancer GLX 1984 model, white, four door, automatic with AC, stereo radio & cassette, driven by a lady, in excellent condition. KD750. Tel. 4884485. (AT4-43681-3)

OLDSMOBILE Omega Brougham, 1983 dark tan, 77000 kms, in excellent condition. KD900 ono. Contact Mr. Raseem Kamal, Al Minthar Est. No. 31 basement, Taher Bou Hamad Complex, Al Othman Street, Nugra. Tel. 2641624, 5-6 pm. (AT4-43688-3)

ALFA ROMEO Alfetta 20 injection 1984, manual, 5 speed, 4-door, auto windows and seats, 75,000 kms only, dark blue metallic, pioneer stereo, in very good condition. KD850. Tel. Mr. Ashan, 4878197 anytime, answer phone. (AT4-43688-3)

NISSAN Stanza '84, fully automatic, silver colour, red inside, with 4 door, AC, hatchback. KD850. Tel. 4818594. (AT4-43693-3)

OLDSMOBILE Omega 1981, automatic, AC, in good condition, KD600. Tel. 3901575 Ext 24, after 3 pm. (AT4-43691-3)

Computers

COMMODORE Amiga 1000, 2.5 Meg Ram Comspec, two 3.5 inch disk drives, stereo colour monitor 1081, soundscape Midi Interface, soundscape sound sampler with software, KD500. Casio CZ/5000 keyboard, KD 280. Tel. Uwe, 5715066, off. 5721912, home. (AT4-43677-3)

IBM PC RT model 10 type 6151 with 1.0 MB memory, 40 MB fixed disc, 1.2 MB floppy, up to 8 users, 16 ASC II devices permitted, along with screen, keyboard, mouse, printers and monitor. Tel. 2530263, 7 am - 2 pm. (AT4-43694-3)

BEDS, tumble dryer, gas cooker, dressing tables. All are in excellent condition. Contact Flat No. 8, Block 103, Sheikh Mishal Building, Mangaf Street, Mangaf, or Tel. Keith Lawrence, 3260233 ext 4045/3671, 6 am - 3 pm. (AT4-43712-3)

Miscellaneous

HIGH quality 100% woolen carpets 3 x 4 and 2 x 3, complete china set for 18 persons (168 pieces). Tel. 5718456. (AT4-43714-2)

NATIONAL video G400, Marantz system, single bed, Siemens heater, house plants, carpets and curtains, as good as new. Also sofa set, table tennis board and washing machine. Tel. 4735595, 8 am - 2 pm, 5-10 pm. (AT4-43688-3)

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MARKET PLACE

VIDEO camera, TV-stereo cabinet, computers, multiband digital radio, stereo set, bedroom set, all baby items, kitchen and dining tables, other household items. Tel. Philip, 5621027. (AT4-43715-2)

SALMIYA: close to Indian School, ground floor flat; 2 bedrooms, large saloon 9/4m, furnished with carpets. Rent KD140. Available from October 1. Tel. 5620238. (AT4-43716-3)

IN Salmiya behind the shopping centre, off Baghdad Street. One bedroom flat, centrally located, with or without contents for sale. Tel. Mr. Irfan, 4842033, off. 5749895, res. (AT4-43677-3)

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REQUIRED from Farwaniya, KAC building to Shuaikha, near fish market, 7 am - 1 pm. Tel. 4814466, 4834154 ext 107. (AT4-43705-2)

REQUIRED from Baried Al Qar, near Kuwait Continental to Al-Soor Street, near Sheraton roundabout to suit office hours 8 am - 1 pm, 4-7 pm. Tel. 2551315, 1.30-3.30 pm, after 7 pm. (AT4-43717-3)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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We are also pleased to announce to our old and new customers the special rates, valid for one month, on the rental of cassettes.

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Criquielion to sue Bauer for assault

BRUSSELS, Aug. 30. (Reuter): Belgian's Claude Criquielion plans to sue Canadian rider Steve Bauer for assault following an incident which deprived the local favourite of victory in the World Cycling Championships, his lawyer said today.

Criquielion says he was brought down by Bauer 50 metres from the finish of Sunday's professional road race at the championships in Renens, when he looked the most likely winner.

Italian Maurizio Fondriest won the title after Bauer faded badly in the closing metres.

Lawyer Orphale Crucke told Reuters that Criquielion would lodge a complaint for assault at a court in Oudenaarde, near Ghent, later today.

He said Criquielion had the moral support of the Belgian Cycling Union, which had already asked the International Cycling Union to impose sanctions on Bauer.

The court will investigate the case and decide whether Criquielion can claim damages. Crucke said.

The clash happened as Bauer was leading the final three-man sprint on an uphill stretch towards the finish, ahead of Criquielion, with Fondriest then in a seemingly hopeless position.

Suddenly

As Bauer faded and changed gear Criquielion tried to nip past on the inside. But the Canadian suddenly veered to the right and blocked the Belgian's path with his elbow.

Forced off the road, Criquielion cannoned into a policeman, lost his balance and crashed to the ground.

Bauer then seemed to lose his momentum and hardly reacted when Fondriest shot past and — to his own amazement — won the world title.

Bauer, who is based in Belgium, was later disqualified from second place for dangerous riding. He needed a police escort to lead him away from a boozing crowd.

Fondriest was also greeted with jeers and whistles when he donned the 'rainbow' jersey as world champion.

Zagar takes BICC past Awami

ZAGAR batted brilliantly for his 90 runs to take BICC to an eight-wicket victory over Awami Cricket Club in a friendly match at the Yarmouk grounds on Friday.

BICC, requiring 136 runs for victory, opened their innings through Mirza and Zagar who put on 103 runs for the first wicket. Zagar hit five sixes and seven fours while Mirza hit three fours in his 23.

After the dismissal of both the openers, Nadeem and Gulshan scored the required to take BICC to an easy victory with nine overs to spare.

Allotted

Earlier on, Awami could only score 135 for the loss of seven wickets in their 25 allotted overs. Imtiaz hit 30 while Sajid and Mustafa scored 23 each. The only other batsmen to reach the double figures were Tariq with 17 and Tahir 12.

For BICC, the spoils were shared by Afzal, Gulshan and Nadeem with two wickets each while Amjad got one.

SRI LANKA LOSE BY SEVEN WICKETS

England end Test-win drought at Lord's

LONDON, Aug. 30. (Reuter): England, without a win in 18 Test matches, ended this dismal run at Lord's today but still made heavy weather of beating Sri Lanka by seven wickets.

Chasing 97, England were 73 for no wicket with 37 minutes left of the morning session on the fifth and final day. But they then slipped to 82 for three and at lunch the scores were level. Tim Robinson having failed to score from the last three balls before the interval.

So England had to wait until the afternoon session for the winning run, a cut for four by Robin Smith off Arjuna Ranatunga taking the score to 100 for three.

It was England's first Test win at home for three years and in England's long first innings of 429.

Scoreboard

SRI LANKA first innings 194 (R. Ratnayake 59 not out, B. Kuruppu 46, G. Labrooy 42).

ENGLAND first innings 429 (R. Russel 94, G. Gooch 75, K. Barnett 66, A. Lamb 63, G. Labrooy four for 119).

SRI LANKA second innings 331 (A. Ranatunga 78, A. Samarakkera 57, D. Mendis 56 P. Newport four for 87).

ENGLAND second innings (overnight eight wickets for 100)

G. Gooch 31/4 b Samarakkera 36, T. Robinson not out 34.

K. Barnett 3/2 b Samarakkera 0.

A. Lamb 3/2 b Ranatunga 8.

R. Smith not out 0.

Extras (10-w-2nb-4) 14.

Total for three wickets 100.

Fall of wickets: 1-73 2-73 3-82.

Bowling: Labrooy 9-0-24-6, Ratnayake 7-1-16-0, Samarakkera 10-0-38-2, Ranatunga 8-4-14-1.

Result: England won by seven wickets.

Scoreboard

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